

THE JOURNAL

January 30, 2004

50 cents (tax included)

Sports Albany girls shut out Holy Names [C1]

Arts Dance IS celebrates the art of movement [C10]


JOANNA JHANDA/STAFF

HOODING AT street level forced El Cerrito resident George McRae to replace a retaining wall that protects the foundation to his Barrett home.

Resident wonders who'll stop the rain

El Cerrito denies claim to replace retaining wall damaged by flooding from

By Alan Lopez
STAFF WRITER

EL CERRITO — Many people are not fond of the rain, but it is the resident George McRae. He's terrified that his Barrett home will flood when it's not paying attention. Terrible damage looms.

When the weather turns bad, he makes sure he's there to prevent people from parking in front of his house.

On the last day of 2002, a car parked in front of his home diverted a 2- to 3-inch-deep river of rainwater into his basement and his back yard. The rain also helped destroy a retaining wall in his back yard. A replacement wall cost \$4,800.

He and his wife, Heidi Rand, believe the city's storm drains are faulty and filed a claim with the city for the cost of the retaining

wall. That claim was rejected at the Monday, Jan. 26 council meeting.

Prior to that, the city provided three "no parking" signs for the front of McRae's house, two of which have been stolen.

McRae bristles at this solution. But there's little else the city can do, said public works manager Dan Clark.

The storm drains on and around Barrett Avenue were repaired a few years ago, ostensi-

See FLOOD, Page A9



JOANNA JHANDA/STAFF

BEHIND MCRAE'S house is Baxter Creek, whose banks erode and weaken the homeowner's retaining walls.

Waterfront future back on agenda

By Alan Lopez
STAFF WRITER

ALBANY — Two competing visions of the Albany waterfront — one with the Golden Gate Fields racetrack, the other without — will be among the information presented at a meeting that will conclude a public input process.

The meeting will be held at the Albany Community Center, from 7 to 9 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 3. It will include presentations about the competing visions, one from the Citizens for Eastshore Park and the Sierra Club, the other from the relatively new Albany Waterfront Coalition.

Both groups will ultimately take a backseat to Magna Entertainment Corp., which owns Golden Gate Fields and can develop nearly anything it wants on

MEETING

WHAT: Golden Gate Fields visioning workshop

WHEN: 7-9 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 3

WHERE: Albany community center, 1249 Marin Ave.

INFORMATION: 510-528-5760 or at www.albanyca.org

For more information about the Citizens for Eastshore State Park and the Sierra Club plan for the waterfront, call 510-848-0800.

For more information about the Albany Waterfront Coalition plan, call 510-527-8476.

its property, as long as it meets restrictions under the city's waterfront protection measure, or

See WORKSHOP, Page A9

Here come the bridal gowns

■ Superstore selling prom outfits, wedding dresses will be one of Albany's biggest retailers

By Alan Lopez
STAFF WRITER

ALBANY — It's clear that 600 Cleveland Ave. is undergoing a transformation. Sawdust covers the floors, building materials fill the room and the bare walls look ready to be painted.

When it's finished, it will be one of Albany's largest retail businesses — a 14,078-square-foot wedding and prom dress

"superstore."

City leaders think the store could help upgrade and transform Cleveland Avenue, which is largely made up of light-industrial businesses. The City Council, acting as the city's reinvestment agency, approved a use permit and design review for the store on Jan. 20.

"It means sales tax revenues," said planning and zoning commissioner Evan Flavell, of the new store. "It may be a first step towards change in character of that street if they're successful."

See BRIDAL, Page A8



SUSAN TRIPP/ROLLARD/STAFF

NET HEALTHCARE CORP. said Wednesday that it will stop operating Doctors Medical Center San Pablo/Pinole to pare down operations. Tenet will operate it for six more months.

Tenet to stop operating Doctors Medical Center

The San Pablo/Pinole hospital begins work on plan to prevent closure

By Judy Silber and Matt Krupnick
STAFF WRITERS

Leaving the fate of a vital community hospital in doubt, Tenet Healthcare Corp. announced Wednesday that it will stop operating Doctors Medical Center San Pablo/Pinole as part of a sweeping decision to pare down operations that also includes the sale of 18 Southern California hospitals.

The news puts 50-year-old Doctors Medical Center right back where it started seven years ago when Tenet took over operations — wondering how it can survive and continue caring for patients in West County. It also comes just as the hospital is recovering from a yearlong nurses strike that cost it millions of dollars.

Tenet's withdrawal may not cause Doctors Medical Center to shutter its doors. Tenet leases the hospital from the West Contra Costa Healthcare District and will

See HOSPITAL, Page A2

Pharmacist packs wares for Walnut Creek move

By Alan Lopez
STAFF WRITER

When he was a boy, Bob Brensel slung milkshakes and sodas at his father's two pharmacies in El Cerrito. The business had a 17-stool soda fountain. It sold cosmetics, greeting cards, magazines and sandwiches and had a neighborhood-friendly feel.

INSIDE

■ Longs Pharmacy joins Solano Avenue lineup. Page A8

As an adult, he's been managing his own pharmacies for 23 years, first in El Cerrito, then in Albany. His pharmacies were more modern and efficient, but the neighborhood-friendly atmosphere remained.

"If I could've put a soda fountain in the room, I would have," Brensel said. "Because it was like that again."

But the days of serving Albany residents came to an end this week, as Brensel finished off his tenure at his Solano Avenue Pharmacy, which he sold to Safeway several months ago.

On Tuesday, his last day in Albany, he left with a mixture of sadness and nostalgia for his time in the area, but a sense of excitement for a new venture in Walnut Creek.

"I'm highly appreciative of people in El Cerrito and Albany



GREGORY URQUIAGA/STAFF

BOB BRENSEL is relocating his pharmacy to Walnut Creek after 23 years of running his business in El Cerrito and Albany.

and Berkeley, and I feel like the relationships I've built over the years as a pharmacist are truly genuine, and I will miss each and every one of my patients," Brensel said.

"I hope when people look back at me as a pharmacist in the area, I've made a difference in people's lives in some way, in some small way."

Born and raised in El Cerrito,

Brensel took over management of his father's two pharmacies in 1980, shortly after he graduated with a degree in pharmacy from the University of the Pacific in Stockton.

The two stores eventually merged, and Brensel moved the business to Solano Avenue in 1995.

Brensel said he had no plans to leave until he found out that

Longs Drugs was moving in across the street. He thought he would be able to compete with the drug-store giant in the short term but worried about its long-term effects.

So, he sold his business to Safeway. And he focused his energy on what he liked and what he was good at: prescription

See PHARMACY, Page A8

INSIDE

KNIGHT RIDDER

Community Folk

■ New West County schools official wants all students to succeed. Page A3

At the Library

■ Visit to childhood library brings memories, and a few pleasant surprises. Page A5



Martin Snapp

■ Mel-O-Dee regulars pay their last respects to a good friend. Page A3

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INFORMATION FOR LIFE

NEWS BRIEFS

Albany

CALFed talk will cover invasive species

Roger Buttermore of the CALFed Bay-Delta program will speak on invasive species and other threats to the Bay's ecosystem at a talk on Feb. 2 at 7 p.m. in the Edith Stone Room at the Albany Community Center, 1249 Marin, Albany. For details, call 510-848-9358.

Waterfront planting volunteers needed

Albany's community development department invites the community to help with another planting event on the waterfront on Feb. 7 from 9 a.m. to noon.

The event will be held rain or shine, and volunteers are asked to wear work clothes, gloves and sturdy shoes, and bring a favorite digging tool, if they have one, as well as a friend. Snacks will be provided. For details, call 510-528-5754.

El Cerrito

Harding hosts information day, visits

Meet the principal, parents and students of Harding Elementary School on two Wednesdays, Feb. 4 and 25 from 9 to 10 a.m. in the Harding staff room. Parents can visit the kindergarten classrooms and learn more about plans for moving into the school's new buildings. Refreshments will be provided.

The school is located on Fairmount at Ashbury Avenue in El Cerrito. The main entrance is on "C" Street (between Ashbury and Behrens). For details call 510-525-0273.

Get numismatic advice at library

Local stamp club experts will be at the El Cerrito Library on Feb. 7 at 11 a.m. to provide advice (and freebies) to potential collectors of all ages who would like to learn about collecting postage stamps as a hobby. Scouts working on badges and seniors (with or without grandchildren) are especially encouraged to attend. For details, call the library at 510-526-7512. The library is at 6510 Stockton Ave.

West County Winds will play at ECHS

The West County Winds will present classical pieces arranged for band, marches and modern music in its spring concert on Feb. 9 at 8 p.m. in the El Cerrito High School Little Theatre, 540 Ashbury Ave. The city-sponsored Winds is looking for new members. Meetings are held every Monday from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. For details, call band director Spiros Xydias at 707-551-7188.

Berkeley

Eastshore Park educational walk Feb. 7

The groups Citizens for Eastshore State park, Friends of Five Creeks and Save the Bay are sponsoring a walk on Feb. 7 at 10 a.m. to educate the public about planned creek daylighting and nature restoration in the park. The walk will meet at Sea Breeze Market on University Avenue just west of I-880/580. Details: f5creeks@aol.com, www.fivecreeks.org, or 510-848-9358.

Alameda County

Tie the knot on Valentine's Day

The Alameda County Clerk-Recorder's Office will be open Valentine's Day, Saturday, Feb. 14, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. to issue marriage licenses and perform wedding ceremonies. The office is at 1106 Madison St., in Oakland. The fee for a marriage license is \$79, which includes one certified copy. The fee for a ceremony is \$50 (cash or checks accepted). Couples should call 510-272-6362 to make an appointment.

Hospital

FROM PAGE A1

continue operating it for an additional six months, giving the district at least that long to figure out a plan.

But even the threat of hospital closure worries community members because it could mean the loss of a valuable asset. Kaiser Permanente in Richmond is the only other hospital in West County. After that, the closest facilities are in Vallejo, Martinez and Berkeley, 11 to 16 miles away. In addition, Doctors Medical Center has the East Bay's only burn unit.

"I'm concerned about access to medical care in that part of the county," said Dr. John Rampulla, medical director of Doctor's emergency department.

Rampulla said he worries about the high numbers of uninsured and Medi-Cal patients served by the hospital. If it goes under, they'll have a hard time accessing care, he said. Many have limited means of transportation. "Access to health care will just not be available to anyone in that area if there isn't a solution," Rampulla said.

The loss of San Pablo's emergency room — the county's second busiest, in terms of ambulance visits — in particular would create problems, added Art Lathrop, Contra Costa County's director of emergency medical services.

"If that emergency department is lost, it's going to have a fairly devastating impact on emergency care in West County," Lathrop said. "You can't take a busy emergency department and close it and not have a tremendous impact."

Dr. Stephen Newman, chief executive officer of Tenet California, said the decision to sell the 19 hospitals came after much soul searching. Tenet's profits have dropped dramatically as the company has changed its billing practices in response to numerous government investigations. On Thursday, the company said earnings for the fourth quarter ended Dec. 31 will be significantly below analysts' expectations.

As a result, executives determined that it could support only a limited number of hospitals, Newman said. In addition to the 19 California hospitals, Tenet announced it also will sell eight in other states.

Tenet decided to keep the 17

ALBANY POLICE REPORTS

Monday, Jan. 19

■ **SLEEPER** — At about 3:30 p.m. officers responded to a parking lot behind the Albany Theater on reports of a subject sleeping near a Dumpster by a door. Officers arrested the 44-year-old Berkeley man when a check found he had several outstanding warrants from Berkeley for failure to appear. He was cited and released.

Tuesday, Jan. 20

■ **OUTSTANDING WARRANTS** — At about 1 a.m. officers contacted two subjects on the 500 block of San Pablo Avenue and arrested a 26-year-old Oakland man, when he was found to have outstanding warrants. He was cited and released.

■ **SATURN STOLEN** — During a blue '92 Saturn was stole from the 600 block of Jackson Street.

■ **RESIDENTIAL BREAK-IN** — During the day thieves broke into a residence on the 1000 block of Clay Street and stole items from inside.

■ **ATTACKERS** — At about 8:30 p.m. someone reported that three male subjects jumped a man, beat him up and stole his wallet while he was walking on the BART path near Brighton Avenue. The attackers were last seen running north.

■ **PROBATION VIOLATION** — At about 8:30 p.m. a resident on the 900 block of Solano Avenue reported that a suspicious person was on his porch, knocking on his door and then standing in the driveway. Officers contacted the 31-year-old homeless man and arrested him for being on court probation for disorderly conduct. He was cited and released.

Wednesday, Jan. 21

■ **RESIDENTIAL BREAK-IN** — Thieves broke into a home on the

1400 block of Portland Avenue through a rear window and stole items from inside.

■ **CAR STOLEN, RECOVERED** — At about 10 p.m. a resident on the 600 block of Kains Avenue reported that within the previous 30 minutes unknown thieves had stolen his maroon '93 Subaru. It was located the next morning in Richmond. The car was not damaged and they did not have anyone in custody. The owner was notified.

Thursday, Jan. 22

■ **BIKE FOUND** — Officers located a black BMX bike on the 600 block of Key Route Boulevard that had been reported as stolen last week. The owner was notified.

■ **VIOLENT ROBBER** — At about 4:15 p.m. an Albany man reported that while he was talking on his cell phone and walking on the 900 block of Kains Avenue a subject ordered him to give up the phone. The victim refused and the subject grabbed it forcibly and walked away. The victim followed the thief asking for the phone back. The thief laughed at the victim and punched him several times then reached into his pockets and stole cash. The thief was last seen going north.

■ **RESIDENTIAL BREAK-IN** — During the day thieves broke into a residence on the 800 block of Washington Avenue and stole items.

■ **BIKE STOLEN** — During the afternoon a bike was stolen from the 1200 block of Brighton Avenue.

■ **OUTSTANDING WARRANT** — At about 11:30 p.m. officers responded to the 1300 block of Solano Avenue on reports of a subject who appeared to be hanging around and hiding in the shadows. Officers arrested the 29-year-old homeless man when he was found to have an outstanding warrant. He was cited and released.

Friday, Jan. 23

■ **DUI** — At about 5 a.m. officers stopped a silver Nissan Sentra near Monroe and Jackson streets and arrested the driver, a 32-year-old Albany man, for DUI. He was cited and released.

■ **DODGE STOLEN** — During the night thieves stole a silver Dodge Durango that was parked in a garage on the 1100 block of Brighton Avenue.

■ **HONDA STOLEN** — At about 6:30 p.m. unknown thieves stole a blue '94 Honda Accord with Arizona plates that was parked in the University Village.

■ **SUSPENDED LICENSE** — At about noon officers stopped a brown '86 Plymouth near Masonic and Portland Avenues for a vehicle code violation. The driver, a 26 Richmond man, was arrested for driving with a suspended license. He was cited and released.

■ **SHOPLIFTERS ARRESTED** — At about 3:45 p.m. officers responded to the Safeway Store on the 1500 block of Solano Avenue on reports of two shoplifters in custody who were caught with bottles in their jackets. When officers arrived the pair had left the store and were walking south on Peralta Avenue. Officers contacted and arrested the two Berkeley boys, ages 15 and 16, for petty theft and released them to their guardian and father.

Saturday, Jan. 24

■ **NO LICENSE OR INSURANCE** — Officers stopped a green Acura near Pierce and Johnson streets for no license plates. The driver, a 28-year-old Oakland man, was arrested for driving without a license and no proof of insurance. He was cited and released.

Sunday, Jan. 25

■ **TRIPLE ARREST** — At about 11 a.m. officers responded to a High School on reports of a going off and a subject was being charged with burglary. The man was transported to the Jail and the two boys were released to their mothers with no charges.

■ **VANDALISM** — During the night thieves broke into and stole a black '04 Chevrolet Silverado on the 1000 block of Oakridge.

■ **HONDA STOLEN** — During the night a green '93 Honda Accord was stolen from the 700 block of Ashbury Avenue.

Summary

During the week of Jan. 19 through three cars, responded to false alarms, attended to two deceased animals, assisted people who were locked out of cars. In the domestic arena responded to one stand-by disturbance and 17 civil cases. Officers stopped 188 vehicles, issued 72 citations and 118 fines. Firefighter/paramedics responded to two fire calls and several emergencies.

EL CERRITO POLICE REPORTS

Wednesday, Jan. 7

■ **FORGERY** — About 1:46 p.m., an officer investigating the report of a forgery at a business on the 10000 block of San Pablo Avenue found the suspect standing next to a teller window and determined that she had attempted to cash a forged Western Union check, police say. Police arrested a 33-year-old Richmond woman for check forgery; she was released pending further investigation.

Thursday, Jan. 8

■ **SHOPLIFTING** — About 6 p.m. a Target employee reported that a woman had concealed merchandise in a bag and also put on a shirt and left the store without paying. The 38-year-old El Cerrito resident was taken to the store's security office; police arrested her for shoplifting and took her to the Martinez jail.

Saturday, Jan. 10

■ **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE** — Police arrived to investigate a disturbance between a couple reported in the Walgreens parking lot about 7:30 p.m. The wife said her husband had struck her and also had driven their car through the parking lot while intoxicated, police said. Police arrested a 28-year-old Richmond man for spousal battery and driving while under the influence.

Wednesday, Jan. 11

■ **RESTRAINING ORDER** — A woman was sent to the 1400 block of 56th Street about 11:15 p.m. to get a report from a resident man against whom she had a restraining order was trying to enter the residence. Officers arrested a 38-year-old Oakland man for a domestic violence restraining order violation, attempted burglary, resisting arrest and destruction of jail property.

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pays low reimbursement rates.

It's also unclear how prospective operators will view the finances of Doctors Medical Center. According to state records, the hospital was profitable from June 1, 2001, through May 31, 2002, with a net income of almost \$3 million. But in the year that followed, it lost \$7.7 million because the protracted nurse strike forced it to hire expensive replacements.

Health care analysts said there's at least a fair chance that someone will want Doctors Medical Center.

"It's fairly attractive," said Wanda Jones, president of the New Century Healthcare Institute in San Francisco, a health care research firm. The hospital has no obvious competitors, plus it's easy to access from Interstate 80. Jones also said estimates from \$5 million to \$50 million for seismic retrofitting are not outrageous. Other hospitals face bills in the

hundreds of millions, she said.

The next six months are expected to include frantic collaboration between the district, county and companies, said William Walker, director of Contra Costa County health services.

"It's my hope that it's able to (find a buyer)," Walker said. "I don't think we can close more hospitals, especially in such an underserved area."

Community members said "There needs to be a hospital for people to go to," said Rene Robinson of Richmond.

Judy Silber covers biotechnology and the business of health care. Reach her at 925-8507 or jsilber@cctimes.com. Reach Matt Krupnick at 943-8246 or mkupnick@cctimes.com. Staff writer Tom Lochner contributed to this story.

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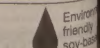
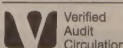
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Neighbors

PLE

more Congregational Church in El Cerrito is celebrating 100 years in the community with a series of events. The next event is a piano recital by Kazuko Cleary, who is a frequent accompanist at church services, on Sunday, April 18, at the First Congregational Church of Berkeley, 2345 Shattuck Way at Dana. Tickets are \$12 for children 12 and under; information 510-842-0727.

On Saturday, April 17, the church will hold a dinner at the Dragon Restaurant in Oakland and on Sunday, April 18, a service and reception. The church is located at 1111 Hill St.

For the ninth consecutive year the Albany Education Foundation is awarding mini-grants to teachers in the Albany schools. The 49 grants, totaling almost \$21,000, will go to every school in the district. The Albany Children's Center and MacGregor Continuation High School.

Albany Education Foundation grants are made for a maximum of \$750 in direct classroom support; this year's grants ranged from \$100 to the maximum amount. A foundation release says that emphasis is given to those programs that receive no aid from the federal or district.

Grants, which involve many projects, are innovative and creative and which offer students unique learning opportunities, among other criteria. The foundation was begun in 1965 and is supported with contributions and volunteerism by individuals, families and businesses in Albany and beyond.

The foundation's major fundraiser is the "Gala Gathering for Albany Schools," which will be held this year on Feb. 29 at the Solano Grill & Bar.



GREGORY URQUIAGA/STAFF

READY, SET ... CARBO-LOAD: A dinner fund-raiser for the El Cerrito High School girls' soccer team will feature pasta prepared by chef Jamal Jawad, shown here with 16 members of the varsity team. The dinner will be held at the Kensington Community Center on Saturday, Feb. 7 with seatings at 5 and 7:30 p.m. Tickets at \$12 per person or four for \$40 are available in advance by calling 510-234-8134 or e-mailing ilink21@earthlink.net.

For more information on the foundation, contributions or its events, call 510-558-6823.

Air Force Airman Elizabeth F. Blades, a 1999 graduate of El Cerrito High School, has arrived for duty at Pope Air Force Base, Fayetteville, N.C. Blades is a dental laboratory technician with one year of military service assigned to the 43rd Medical Group.

She is the daughter of Esperanza Franco of Richmond.

Submit People items by e-mail to journal@cctimes.com, by conventional mail to 4301 Lakeside Drive, Richmond, CA 94806, or by fax to 510-243-3574.



CONTRIBUTED

SPELLING TILES are among the benefits coming to the Albany schools through the Albany Education Foundation's mini-grants.

Mel-O-Dee lounge loses a good friend

SAD FACES at the Mel-O-Dee Lounge at El Cerrito Plaza: Red Holskil died Jan. 19 at age 63.

The Mel-O-Dee is one of the last of a vanishing breed: a neighborhood bar where everyone really does know your name. For its patrons, Red's passing was a death in the family.

He used to hang out there for hours, nursing a bourbon-and-soda while he played computer games and talked with his friends.

Both of his legs were amputated years ago due to chronic circulatory problems. As a retired school custodian, he couldn't afford anything more expensive than a basic wheelchair. So last year the other patrons at the Mel-O-Dee decided to buy him a high-tech, motorized version.

They're mostly working-class people, living paycheck to paycheck. But when Rich Smith of El Sobrante stood up and announced, "Hey, I need 50 bucks from 20 people to pay for Red's wheelchair," they started pressing cash on him faster than he could collect it.

Some handed him \$100 bills and said, "Keep the change." Within minutes, he had more than enough — \$350 more, to be exact.

"People think we did it because we felt sorry for him, but it's not true," says Smith. "We did it because we admired him."

"We weren't sure he'd even accept it from us," adds Guy Davis of Albany. "Red was a very self-reliant man. He had a ramp going up to his front door that he built himself. I can't imagine how he did it, confined to that wheelchair."

"We planned this for months," says Bob Donalaya of El Cerrito. "Part of the problem was that it had to be kept secret from Red, so we had to do everything when he wasn't here — which wasn't very often."

Last Feb. 15, they surprised him with the new chair. Flying from its mast was an orange pennant reading, "Mel-O-Dee Lounge," lovingly hand-painted by Heather Mathewson, a young woman who works next door in the Junket deli. There was also a handsome new American flag lap robe, crocheted by another Mel-O-Dee regular, Annie Mein-



MARTIN SNAPP
Snapp Shots

dese of Richmond.

"He was like a little boy at Christmas time getting his first bicycle," says Beverly McCracken of Berkeley. "You could see he was really touched."

For Red, the new chair made all the difference. It gave him back control of his life. He could go wherever he wanted whenever he wanted. Best all, he could now do something he hadn't been able to do for years: walk his dog, Tiny.

"I'd see them all the time at Pastime Hardware and the Plaza," says McCracken. "They were inseparable. It made a huge difference in both their lives."

Alas, he was only able to enjoy it for a year. His health problems finally caught up with him, and his heart gave out. But it was the happiest year he'd had for a long, long time, thanks to his friends.

"We were really glad to do it last year," says Kenny De Martini, the owner of the Mel-O-Dee. "But we're really, really glad we did it now."

Oh yeah: The extra \$350 they collected? They gave it to Red and told him to spend it on anything he liked. The next day he proudly wheeled into the bar in his new chair and bought a round for the house.

Update to last week's column: The phone number for the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill in Contra Costa County (NAMI-CC) has been changed. The old number will still connect you, but you'll get there faster if you call 925-465-3864.

You can also log on to NAMI-CC's Web site at www.namicontracosta.org to get the latest information about support groups, guest speakers, and the free Family to Family education classes for families of the mentally ill.

Reach Martin Snapp at 510-262-2787 or msnapp@cctimes.com.

New schools official aims to serve all students

THERE ARE VERY many excellent, high-performing teachers and administrators in this district. My job is to work with all of them so that everyone of our students is successful," says Howard Cohen, the new regional superintendent of secondary schools in the West Contra Costa school district. "That means passing the high school diploma, and being eligible to go to college."

Cohen says he is dedicated to the idea of equality among students in the district, in teaching and learning and having the same tools.

Among those tools would be textbooks. Each school, he says, currently has a different textbook for the same class. Even in one school, sometimes the classrooms have different textbooks.

What is changing, though, and all the schools will soon be using



CLARA-RAE GENSER
Community Folk

the same textbooks and teaching the same classes, he says. "All schools, be they El Cerrito or Kennedy, Hercules or Richmond, will have the same rigorous curriculum, and be given the same opportunities for learning."

Asked how this will affect the quality of teaching, and teachers' creativity, Cohen says, "We are telling them what to teach, but not how to teach it."

Equity is the biggest issue, he believes. "African-American, Latino, GATE students, whites, Asians — they are all our kids."

Noting that many students do not have good reading, writing, and math skills, Cohen speaks

of bringing in outside experts, particularly in English, language arts and math, with a focus on algebra, to work closely with classroom teachers and administrators to improve student achievement.

The district has received a grant from the Gates Foundation and the California Department of Education ("We are one of 10 urban districts to be selected") to develop a community-based, five-year plan for improving high schools.

"We will have the opportunity this semester for parents, students, business community members and teachers to answer the question of what it is that they want to do in the schools," he says.

Sacramento's school district has had such a program for three years, Cohen says.

"We need to change the face of high school education so that every student is challenged, including the special ed, English learners, everyone."

With the Gates grant, the district will hire a community-based coordinator to work with their primary partners, the Richmond Chamber of Commerce's education committee, the Stupski Foundation and the schools to develop focus groups and facilitate conversations in schools, "to let the community speak to us about what it wants to see for all of our high school graduates."

The state mandates that all middle and high-school students

have the knowledge and abilities to maintain grade-level standards, and the schools must teach to maintain these standards, he says. "The most important thing I can do right now is to support this process, and continue the changes I have started in the district that will result in student achievement and good teaching."

Howard Cohen's has been a classroom teacher and was a high school principal in Davis and an associate superintendent of educational services in Woodland. He earned a doctorate in education at Berkeley. He also

has been the cantor at Temple Beth Hillel in Richmond for 20 years, during which time he has come to know the community well, taking part in interfaith activities, and being active in GRIP and other organizations.

"I have come to know the heart and soul of this community," he says, and is very much a part of it.

Do you know good subjects for this column? If so, please write me at 555 Pierce St., No. 443, Albany, CA 94706 or call 510-525-4585. My e-mail is crgenser@aol.com.

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THE JOURNAL

"... were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter."

— Thomas Jefferson

EDITORIAL

JEFF HANSEN • HILLS NEWSPAPERS

Last chance to 'vision'

TO THE WEST OF Interstate 80 is a part of Albany that has to do with dreams. Those range from the small dreams of a Golden Gate Fields bettor hoping 0a longshot's nose will pass the finish line first, to the rather large dreams of quite a number of people who have varying visions for the area on which the track sits.

The visions made public so far range from sprucing up the racetrack and making it even more of a gaming — and shopping — attraction to "winning back" the waterfront and replacing the track, if owner Magna Corp. closes it, with playing fields and parkland.

Magna has proposed building commercial, retail and entertainment facilities, an event center and a parking structure, and wants to expand the racetrack's simulcast facilities.

Citizens for the Eastshore State Park (CESP) and the Sierra Club have a vision that includes more parkland and less development on the waterfront as long as the track remains, and seem to hope that it will close. What they don't want is the extensive development Magna has proposed.

Although Magna's purchase of a large property in Dixon, where it plans to build another track, has fueled rumors that it will leave, the corporation's spokespeople have insisted it has no intention of closing Golden Gate Fields.

The Albany Waterfront Coalition — a group that claims many Sierra Club members — has put forth another plan, more modest than Magna's but which, as it says, accepts the reality of the track. It includes a small hotel on Fleming Point, "natural" development of the creek, a restaurant and a cafe.

The AWC says its plan could work with or without the racetrack, and that it's a better plan than CESP's for preserving wetlands and wildlife habitat, and does not depend on uncertain sources of funding from the state.

Considering the financial circumstances of the state, which has slashed funding in so many areas already, we think this is one aspect of any plan that deserves serious thought.

Any of these plans has the capacity to drastically change that area west of the freeway. Whether it's for better or worse depends on your point of view.

Or, shall we say, vision. The city has been holding "visioning" sessions over the past months. The concluding one is scheduled for Tuesday.

Two points to keep in mind: One, the property is privately owned and its owner, Magna Corp., will have to decide which plan to pursue. Two, if its plan varies from that allowed by the city's waterfront protection legislation, Measure C, the matter will go to the city's voters.

Small wonder the corporation wants to get it right with residents the first time.

This is a pivotal time in the development of Albany's western edge. Racetrack, beach, park. Playing fields, wetlands, parking lots. If you have a vision — or want to weigh in on the visions of others — now is the time to get involved.

VISIONING WORKSHOP

WHAT: Albany's Concluding Visioning Workshop for Golden Gate Fields

WHEN: 7-9 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 3

WHERE: Albany Community Center (corner of Masonic and Marin, next to the library)

INFORMATION: Albany Community Development Department at 510-528-5760 or www.albanyca.org/news

SUPERBOWL? NO BAY AREA TEAMS? WATCH IT FOR THE HALFTIME SHOW

STAY TUNED FOR TODAY'S HALFTIME SHOW "SALUTE TO STEROIDS."



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Appalling assertion

I'm appalled to learn that the Stanislaus County district attorney has asserted he could not get a fair trial in front of the Honorable Richard E. Armason, a judge of the Superior Court of Contra Costa County.

For more than 40 years, Judge Armason has defined, by his conduct, the terms "fair" and "impartial." He has taught a couple of generations of lawyers about the dignity of and respect for the law.

Armason is in a class by himself. Having practiced law in Contra Costa County for some 25 years, I cannot recall one incident in which a lawyer (defense or prosecution) has ever asserted that Judge Armason was incapable of hearing a serious case without bias or partiality.

Perhaps that district attorney is worried his case is weak and would prefer a judge who might be influenced by public sentiment instead of the rule of law.

If I were Scott Peterson, guilty or innocent, I would be very worried by the district attorney's disdain for a trial governed by such a fine judge.

David A. Brown
El Cerrito

A foolhardy decision

The West Contra Costa school district board's decision to rebuild the new high school in El Cerrito in the present location seems incredible.

I have no knowledge of the different locations, but to go against what would appear to be a vast majority of public opinion in the matter does not seem wise. I would even put it more strongly. It seems foolhardy to oppose such a unified opinion that the board is making the wrong decision.

It would be my thinking that this board should be removed, post haste, before such a mistake could take place. After all, the public is paying the bill for this very major investment and I think their opinion should override this mistake.

Robert H. French
El Cerrito

Litigation magnet

What do you get when you put the flawed El Cerrito ordinance together with the biased Berkeley ordinance? A litigation magnet. That's what happened at last week's tree commission meeting.

What was supposed to be a short session to accept the previous meeting's minutes became a full-on expansion and explanation of the original recommendations.

The commission got off track immediately when they had to be reminded they weren't creating an ordinance. Then they took the Berkeley ordinance as their model and plundered it for every pro-tree statement.

They plucked from the two workshops a random comment about "heritage trees" and haggled over that; then decided not to decide.

During the two hours, no one mentioned that the vast majority of residents wanted "protection of views," which they interpreted to mean we would accept "a right to a limited view" or "a limited right to a view" — or something like that.

So, after two workshops, two tree commission meetings, countless letters and e-mails, a wonderful presentation about property values that apparently fell on deaf ears, here's what we got.

■ The entire "benefits (of trees) and

burdens (of trees)" section from the Berkeley ordinance.

■ A statement that "filtered views and implied views are effective" (another litigation magnet).

■ No deadline for a decision on mediation or arbitration. This is a Berkeley ordinance flaw. Once offered mediation or arbitration, the tree owner can "think about it" for years. Not so with the Tiburon ordinance.

■ No mention of restoration of the full view you had when you bought your home.

The primary mistake of the commission last week was that they felt the need to nail down every detail and eventually, leaving the mediator with nothing to decide and no discretion. That's not what the City Council mandated.

They talked about inspiring "neighborliness" but missed the point; you can't legislate "neighborliness." By the time neighbors read the new ordinance, they're no longer pals. That's why we need a sound and tested ordinance that works. These recommendations, full of best intentions, personal protections and dismal confusion only muddy the issue.

Why search for an ordinance that serves El Cerrito's needs when it's clear the only route to a strong, viable and fair ordinance is through Tiburon.

Glenn Davis
El Cerrito

Approved bill

Jan. 25-31 is Catholic Schools Week. Coincidentally, and perhaps not, last week the Senate approved the Omnibus Spending Bill, a grab-bag of a dozen major appropriations which the Republican leadership failed to get passed in 2003.

Included is the appropriation for the District of Columbia. Senate Democrats had blocked this bill because the education portion provides equal funding to public schools, charter schools, and tuition vouchers to parochial schools.

Sen. Dianne Feinstein broke from party ranks to become a crucial advocate for the vouchers. Feinstein, who is Jewish, claims that her education from the Catholic nuns in San Francisco got her into Stanford University, and these vouchers will give others a similar shot at success.

Feinstein's tuition vouchers will allow 2,000 needy kindergartens to 12th grade students "trapped in failing schools" to escape. A lottery will determine who gets a voucher. As for the children left behind, Feinstein is mum.

The principal beneficiary of this program is Archbishop McCarrick of Washington, D.C., who receives \$13 million for his financially strapped schools; 2,000 bodies to fill his empty classrooms; and Senate confirmation of the myth that parochial-school students have a leg up on their peers.

Ron Deziel
El Cerrito

HOW TO REACH US

Letters to the editor reflect the opinion of the writer. Letters must include your first and last name, address and daytime phone number. All letters are subject to verification. All letters are subject to editing for brevity and style. Not all letters may be published.

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Congratulations to Bill Kerber

I was glad to see my friend, Bill Kerber's photo on the front page of the 9 Journal as the president-elect of the Cerrito Chamber of Commerce.

Bill's commitment to "improving and establishing new businesses," as your reporter's interview cited, will, I hope, bring positive leadership there. He has given many years of monumental effort to the El Cerrito Chamber of Commerce and its board of directors.

I was privileged to be a recent member of that board and active in the chamber over the last five years. Bill's leadership will meet a difficult challenge, however. Prevailing attitudes toward "new businesses" among recent members of the chamber board are more negative than positive.

Their most recent negativism is toward the new Cerrito Theater redevelopment project, toward which, in a chamber newsletter, the chamber membership was advised to not contribute, even to any possible forthcoming fund-raising effort.

Such negative, premature "advice," clearly not what the El Cerrito Chamber of Commerce bylaws specify as their intentional objectives. Bill Kerber would begin to begin the next meeting of the board of directors with everyone reading (again?) the opening section of the chamber bylaws. Those bylaws focus on "promoting, promoting, promoting ... to prevent controversies detrimental to growth ... to value liberal investment of substance and self ... and to foster maximum freedom for individuals and business."

The El Cerrito Chamber of Commerce is badly in need of returning to its original charter of "promoting" and of ending new, entrepreneurial members will modernize their agendas and eliminate their habit of "can't do" kinds of thinking.

On the positive side, the Cerrito Theater is engaging the interest of several thousand theater hopefuls who showed up at the open house last year and a hundred who, last month, attended a meeting indicating their interest in volunteering on organizing committees for the Friends of Cerrito Theater.

The chamber would get a tremendous boost of positive promotional energy from cooperating in this enthusiastic enterprise. Admittedly, the enterprise could fail, which is not unusual for start-up enterprises.

But it is also possible (and I believe likely) that the Cerrito Theater will be successful. It will brighten the visibility of El Cerrito's southern gateway area at San Pablo and Fairmount avenues. The Cerrito Theater will expand the cultural life of the area, in partnership with the existing performing arts theater on near Moeser Lane.

The Cerrito Theater will restore a historic art deco movie house and bring it up to standard use as a community measure and multipurpose community meeting place. My personal hope is the Cerrito Theater will also provide my children and grandchildren an opportunity to learn about America's film history and have the opportunity to become involved with the creative enterprises of modern media.

Allan B. Eisen
El Cerrito

YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS

House of Representatives

Barbara Lee: (D-9th District: Albany, Berkeley, most of Oakland) 414 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515; 202-225-2661; Fax: 202-225-9817; 1301 Clay St., Ste. 1000N, Oakland, CA 94612; 510-763-0370; Fax: 510-763-6538; E-mail: barbara.lee@mail.house.gov

Ellen Tauscher: (D-10th District: El Cerrito, Kensington) 2121 N. California Blvd., Suite 555, Walnut Creek, CA 94596; 925-932-8899 or 1034 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515; 202-225-1880; E-mail through www.house.gov/tauscher

State Senate

Don Perata: (D-9th District: Albany, Berkeley) State Capitol, Room 4061, Sacramento, CA 95814; 916-445-6577; Fax: 916-327-1997; 1515 Clay St., No. 2022, Oakland, CA 94612; 510-286-1333; Fax: 510-286-3885; E-mail: senator.perata@sen.ca.gov

Tom Torlakson: (D-7th District: El Cerrito, Kensington) 2801 Concord Blvd., Concord CA 94519; 800-859-9900 or State Capitol, Room 2068, Sacramento CA 95814; 916-445-6083; e-mail: senator.torlakson@sen.ca.gov

Assembly

Loni Hancock: (D-14th District: Albany, Berkeley, El Cerrito, El Sobrante, Emeryville, Kensington, Richmond, San Pablo, North and West Oakland) State Capitol, P.O. Box 942849, Sacramento, CA 94249; 916-319-2014; Fax: 916-319-2114; 918 Parker St., Ste. A13, Berkeley, CA 94710; 510-540-3660; Fax: 510-540-3655; 712 El Cerrito Plaza, El Cerrito, CA 94530; 510-559-1406; Fax: 510-559-1478

County Supervisors

John Giola: (1st District) 11780 San Pablo Ave., Suite D, El Cerrito, CA

94530; 510-374-3231; Fax: 510-374-3429; E-mail: dist1@bos.co.contra-costa.ca.us

Keith Carson: (5th District) 1221 Oak St., Ste. 536, Oakland, CA 94612; 510-272-6695; Fax: 510-271-5151; E-mail: kcarson@co.alameda.ca.us

EBMUD

David Richardson: Ward No. 4 (Albany, Berkeley, and Emeryville; part of Oakland; El Cerrito and Kensington; E-mail: Oakport@igc.org)

East Bay Regional Parks

Jean Siri: Ward 1 (Albany, Berkeley, Emeryville, El Cerrito, El Sobrante, Kensington, part of Pinole, and San Pablo); E-mail: jsiri@ebparks.org

AC Transit

Joe Wallace: Ward 1 (West Contra Costa and Northern Alameda counties); E-mail: jwallace@actransit.org; phone 510-891-7143; fax 510-234-7689.

Steges Sanitary District

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Cities

El Cerrito: City offices, 10890 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito, 510-215-4300; E-mail: citycouncil@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us

Albany: City offices, 1001 San Pablo Ave., Albany, 510-528-5710.

Kensington: Fire Protection District 217 Arlington Blvd. 510-527-8395; Police Protection and Community Services District 217 Arlington Blvd. 510-526-4141

School boards

West Contra Costa Unified School District: 510-620-2246

Albany Unified School District: 510-558-3766

COMMENTARY

\$3.8 million for theater not justified

By Gina M. Brusatori
EL CERRITO COUNCIL MEMBER

Members of the El Cerrito Council recently voted to approve the theater building for another \$1.3 million on the Cerrito Theater. It will not be before Christmas 2005. I don't approve the additional money and want to discuss my reasons.

Background: In mid-2002, the redevelopment agency purchased the theater building for \$100,000. In May 2003, the agency entered into a disposition, management and loan agreement with the chosen operators. We appropriated \$2.47 million for a 25-year lease on \$10,000 monthly payments.

This month, staff requested an increase up to \$3.8 million. Of this \$3.8 million increase, \$1.3 million is reallocated from the Gateway and Facade Improvement programs and \$1.08 million is appropriated from the agency budget. Staff plans to ask us to waive more than \$100,000 in city permit fees. The consultants and city staff expenses. The cost of the theater project is \$100,000.

Proposal Process Flawed: The request for proposals, which elicited one response, was only of the agency's purchase of the building and a loan to the operator supported by payments. We did not request an additional \$1 million to waive of permit fees, reallocation of funds. We did so, we may have received additional, and more responsive, responses.

Large subsidy: The theater will pay back \$2.47 million over 25 years at a 3 percent interest rate. This is a low rate of

return compared to the RDA's cost of borrowing and the sizable business risk of operating a theater. If the operators cannot make the lease payments or the business closes, the RDA is out the money unless a replacement operator or business is found.

Money the RDA provides in excess of the market represents a taxpayer subsidy to eliminate so-called "blight" and create other public benefits. I supported the original loan, assuming it created over \$1 million in public benefits. Funding \$3.8 million is a zero return on the RDA's investment. I was unable to get the RDA to redesign the theater to remain within the original budget, even though we were successful in a similar effort with our new swim center.

El Cerrito polls question theater: The Godbe survey indicated 42 percent of respondents may support an increase in taxes to support the theater renovation, well below the two-thirds voter approval required. The National Citizen Survey indicated that over 70 percent support "the renovation of the Cerrito Theater funded by a loan to the operator from redevelopment funds." We cannot assume they agree to the RDA giving away money.

Theater constrains funding for other projects: Funding the theater will shrink RDA funds to \$100,000. Investing in one building means the RDA will do little else for at least two years. Taking money from the Gateway and Facade Improvement programs conflicts with the "beautification of San Pablo Avenue" priority heard repeatedly in the General Plan workshops. The Economic Development Board Strategic Plan

called for revitalizing "the Avenue" with facade improvements, tree planting, etc. The Park and Recreation Commission, Friends of Baxter Creek and others have requested we focus on landscaping gateway projects.

Ten-year-old library obligation ignored: In 1994, when El Cerrito required voter approval to extend the life of the redevelopment agency and increase its debt capacity, staff negotiated with county officials for the redevelopment agency to be contractually obligated to provide \$5 million to build a new library building in return for having the county support the ballot initiative. The RDA has failed to act in 10 years. We are misallocating funds by giving the theater more than \$1 million above the loan amount. Also, we are forgoing state funds. Hercules, which never passed countywide library measures while El Cerrito supported them, is building a new \$10 million library with \$6 million in state funds.

Per staff, the RDA can borrow only up to \$7 million. We need to immediately appropriate at least \$5 million to build a new library and seek state funds to finance the rest. It is not appropriate to fund a library by levying a new tax on residents until we have fulfilled the promise we made to the voters in 1994. I will ask that this matter be placed on the next RDA agenda.

ALBANY PTA NEWS

Albany High School

Receive the daily bulletin and announcements by e-mail. Linda Okamoto at ltopm@earthlink.net Jan. 30, Coffee with Principal Ron Rosenbaum, 8:45 a.m., please check in with main office to receive visitor's pass
Feb. 2, PTA Meeting, 7 p.m., AHS Library
Feb. 5, Instructional Improvement Committee Meeting, 7 p.m., Asst. Prin. Conf. Room
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Albany Middle School

Receive the daily bulletin and announcements by e-mail. Frances Santiago at santiagofrances@hotmail.com Feb. 5, PTA Meeting, 7 p.m., AMS Library
Scrip Orders: Call Dorothy Brown at 510-524-3123 or e-mail: dorothy-cmc@yahoo.com

Cornell Elementary School

Receive the daily bulletin and announcements by e-mail. Barbara Grady-Ayer at gradayer@aol.com Scrip Orders: Call Mark Priven 510-528-2082 or e-mail: privenwest@pacbell.net

Marin Elementary School

Receive announcements by e-mail. Kym Sterner at kymsterner@earthlink.net Feb. 4, Parent Ed Evening on Gender Issues in the Early Years: Supporting Equality featuring Eliana Elias M.A., 7-8:30, Marin Multi-Purpose Room, to reserve childcare call Lisa Friedman at 510-524-1243 or lfridman@mac.com by Jan. 30, for questions call Monica Frame at 510-525-7522 or monicaframe@yahoo.com
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AUSD Board of Education

Feb. 10, Regular Meeting, 7:30p.m., Cornell Multi-Purpose Room

AUSD Calendar

Feb. 16-20, Mid-Winter Break (NO SCHOOL)
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Childhood library is portal to history

Quote of the week:

"The man who acquires the ability to take full possession of his own mind may take possession of anything else to which he is justly entitled."

— Andrew Carnegie, 1835-1919



JULIE WINKELSTEIN
At the Library

LAST WEEK I had a meeting in Livermore, and afterward I decided to visit the library I used when I was a child. I had no idea then that it was a Carnegie library, or that the building is one of seven California Classical Revival libraries designed by W.H. Weeks — the others being in Gilroy, Paso Robles, Lompoc, Richmond, Oroville and Roseville.

I did know that I loved going to the library but was scared of the children's librarian — and since I had to walk by her to get into the children's section, I usually went to the adult part instead. I was aware that it was no longer a library, since a new one had been built in 1966, and an even newer one is opening this spring, so I was curious to see what it had become and if it would look familiar inside.

A plaque on the wall as I entered told me the building was a City of Livermore Historic Preservation Landmark Site, dedicated in July 1966. Farther in, I discovered it is now the home to two nonprofit organizations: the Heritage Guild-History Center and the Livermore Art Association Gallery.

When the woman who greeted me found I was revisiting the library after many, many years — I was 15 the last time I was there — she referred me to the history docent, who turned out to be Barbara Bushaw, the same reference librarian I knew many years ago.

I introduced myself, but I think she had already recognized me, since she immediately pointed out some photographs in a glass case.

"We have photos of your mother," she explained, and as I looked through the glass, I could see pictures and newspaper clippings of my mom, taken when she was acting and directing in the local theater group.

But the biggest surprise was an 8-by-10 photograph, showing me when I was 8 years old — what a surprise to actually be part of the local history. But that's me, I told her, pointing, and suppressing the sudden urge to go out and tell everyone to come see this very young and somewhat grim version of myself. Oh, she answered, it's good to know that. I'll write it down.

I managed to pull myself away from the case to look

around the art gallery and the local history collection — and I enjoyed both. And when I got home — and after I called everyone I could think of to tell them about the photograph — I spent some time thinking about how connected people are to their pasts.

It wasn't just the picture or even driving past my old house; it's more. It's as if going back in my mind is a way of explaining myself, as if I am carefully looking at each piece to see how I came to be the person I am now.

Each detail: the wide streets, the pure spaciousness of Livermore and its hills — it is a part of myself I've forgotten, although it has been there all along. It comforts me to know that.

READER REVIEW: This week's book review is from Sophie, and the book is Margaret Bechard's "Hanging on to Max." Sophie says this book is about "Sam Pettigrew, a senior in high school whose girlfriend gets pregnant with his baby, but he ends up caring for it." She describes this book as "a gateway into reality" and recommends it because "it shows that not everything in life is so simple."

Reach librarian Julie Winkelstein at jwinkelstein@ac-library.org or at the Albany Library.



GREGORY LUKAS

Acrobats highlight celebration

WAYNE HUEY of the Red Panda Acrobats does a one-arm handstand as his assistant Jasmine Pusser, 10, waits in the wings during the 10th anniversary celebration of the Albany Library and Community Center on Saturday, Jan. 24 in Albany. Hundreds of people joined in the festivities.

EL CERRITO HIGH SCHOOL NOTES

SHOP SAFEWAY, HELP THE PTA: If you shop at Safeway, 1 to 5 percent of the purchase price can go directly to the El Cerrito High PTA through Safeway's support of ESCRIP. (If you spend \$2,000 a year at Safeway, that would be a contribution of up to \$100 to the PTA without your having to spend an extra dime.)

There are several options to sign up:

1) Go to www.escrrip.com and sign up

online.

2) Send the following information to Rich Ivry, ECHS escrrip coordinator at: ivry@socrates.berkeley.edu: first and last name, home address including ZIP code, phone number, e-mail address, ages of students and Safeway card number — also Office Max card number, if you have one. Or 3) Call Rich Ivry at 510-237-3929 and he'll take it from there.

INDEPENDENT DAY: Independent forms are available in room 50. Independent is someone who is interested in assisting their classmate. It is a good preview running for a class or student office. All applications are due at 2 p.m. and interviews take place Monday or Tuesday of the following week. — Nancy Boissevain

LIBRARY ACTIVITIES

The Albany Library will present a free presentation of a video, "Touring India," on Thursday, Feb. 5, from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. The acclaimed documentary takes viewers from the Himalayas to South India, Bombay to the Ganges, to visit one of the world's most ancient and mysterious civilizations.

Also at Albany: The next First Thursday poetry event is Feb. 5, 7 to 9 p.m., featuring Oakland poet and performer Jessica Loos. Second Wednesdays is a drop-in poetry writing workshop, for all ages, led by Alison Seavak. The next Wednesday event is on Feb. 11, from 7 to 9 p.m. Both are free and held in the Edith Stone Room.

The Albany Library and the Alameda County Bar Association offer free legal assistance at the library in the "Lawyer in the Library" program on the first Tuesday evening of each month. To schedule a 15-minute consultation with an attorney, call the library's Reference Desk at 510-526-3720, ext. 5. Advance registration is required. The next dates are Feb. 3, March 2, April 6, May 4 and June 1.

The Albany Library is at 1247 Marin Ave. and is a branch of the Alameda County Library. Information: 510-526-3720, ext. 20.

Join local stamp-club experts at the El Cerrito Library's Stamp Saturday, Feb. 7 at 11 a.m. The experts will provide advice — and freebies. Everyone from age 6 to 66 and older interested in learning about collecting postage stamps as a hobby is invited.

You can learn the basics of the Internet at the El Cerrito Library's beginning Internet workshops. Practice computer mouse skills, set up e-mail, search the Web, locate library materials in the online catalog, and find the information you need in the library's databases. The workshops are held on alternating Saturday mornings from 10 to 11 a.m.

The El Cerrito Library is at 6510 Stockton Ave. For details, call 510-526-7512.

The Kensington Library will celebrate the creator of The Cat in the Hat and other beloved figures at a Dr. Seuss Birthday Party presented by the Friends

of the Kensington Library. The Seuss tribute will feature stories, food, prizes and a special dramatization along with a meal of "Green Eggs & Ham," at "the Kensington Community Center behind the library parking lot on Saturday, Feb. 21, at 11 a.m. Please note: Tickets are required and will be available on Tuesday, Feb. 17.

Also at Kensington: Family Storytimes for all ages are held on Tuesdays at 7 p.m. (except when special programs are scheduled). The Kensington Library is at 61 Arlington Ave., Kensington, CA 94707-1098.

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Notice of Availability Subsequent Focused Draft Environmental Impact Report for University Village Master Plan Amendments and Notice of Public Hearing

DATE:
February 26, 2004

LOCATION:
Ocean View School
Multi-purpose Room
1000 Jackson Street
Albany

TIME:
6:30 to 9:00 pm

Copies of the Subsequent Focused Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the University Village & Albany/West Berkeley Properties Master Plan Amendments are available at the Physical and Environmental Planning Office, Suite 300, 1936 University Avenue, Berkeley, CA. The proposed amendments alter two phases of redevelopment under the University Village Master Plan approved by the UC Regents and analyzed in a certified focused EIR in 1998. Step 2 consists of the replacement of the remaining 1940s and 1960s housing units at the Village, and Step 3 consists of development of a 26-acre parcel of land as a mixed-use project with graduate student housing, faculty housing, retail development, open space, and community and recreation facilities. This 26-acre parcel fronts on San Pablo Avenue, including the approximately 15-acre Gill Tract, and extends south to Codornices Creek.

Copies of the DEIR are also available for review at the Albany branch of the Alameda County Public Library, 1247 Marin Avenue in Albany, and at the University Village office.

Comments on the DEIR must be received in the Planning Office by 5:00 pm Wednesday, March 17, 2004. A public hearing will be held to receive your comments on the DEIR on Thursday, February 26, 2004 at the Multi-purpose Room, Ocean View School, 1000 Jackson Street, Albany between 6:30 and 9:00 pm. For more information, contact Carol Kielusiak at (510) 643-0638.

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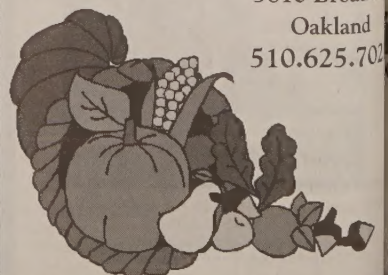
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Calendar

ions to the Community Cal-
must be received Thursdays
prior to publication. List-
on a space-available basis.
missions to Ann Fields, 1969
Blvd., Oakland, CA 94611;
affelds@ccetimes.com or fax
510-4086.

Children

Academic Quiz Bowl, four
academic quiz teams, will
academically at 7 p.m. Jan.
Noble, Inc. 2352 Shat-
Berkeley. The teams will com-
discussing literature, history,
mythology, and more. All
free and open to the public.
40861.

er's Social Skills and Man-
workshops are offered in Albany
days for two hours, 3 to 5 p.m.
workshop lasts for four weeks.
Linda, 527-6202.

Support Group meets twice a
Tuesday evenings at the
Cancer Resource Center,
Shattuck Ave. The free group is
for those who have a parent or care-
with cancer. The meeting is co-fa-
by a teen whose mother had
cancer. 531-7551.

back out books from the Berkeley
Jewish Community Center
Spend quality time with your
with the children's librarian,
your Jewish roots or check out
The library is at 1414 Wal-
Hours: 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Mon-
through Thursday, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30
p.m. 848-0237.

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supervision. The program for ages
3 to 3-1/2 years meets Mon-
day from 9 a.m. to noon. Reg-
is continuous as long as space
is available. Located at 7007 Moeser
215-4371.

Am Martin Children's Center of-
fers "Support Groups For Moth-
ers" for first time mothers and
other babies under 5 months. Ex-
perienced facilitator. Details: 524-
Classes

Class

South Berkeley Senior Center 2939
N. offers a free aerobics, stretch-
ing, strengthening fitness class for
85+. The class is taught by
Puro. For more information, call
581-5170.

Community

Berkeley Lawrence Hall of Sci-
entists offers the following events for
History Month: Soul of Science,
11 to Feb. 29; Dominos and
The Math of Soul, 12 to 2 p.m.
14; Funk and Science: The Noo-
y of Hip-Hop, 12 to 2 p.m. Feb.
For general information, call 510-642-

Education

inding Elementary School wel-
comes parents to its Kindergarten In-
spection/Classroom Visits Day. Meet
principal, parents and students. Visit
kindergarten classrooms. Learn
about plans for moving into the
new school buildings. Refresh-
ments provided. The school is on Fair-
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tween Ashbury and Behrens). For more
information, call 510-525-0273.

Exhibit

■ The color photography of Stephen
Palmer, UC Berkeley professor of Cog-
nitive Science, will be on display in an
exhibit entitled "The Art of Perception" at
the Albany Community Center Foyer
Gallery, 1249 Marin Ave., Albany, from
through April 18. These photographs
highlight unusual visual situations such
as geometric structure and symmetry in
natural patterns and striking color con-
trasts between figure and ground.
Gallery hours: Monday-Friday, 8:30
a.m.-9 p.m. and 10 a.m. on Saturday. A
reception for the artist will be held Jan.
25 from 4-6 p.m.

■ The exhibit Early Women of Berke-
ley (1878-1953) and their organizations
runs through March 27. The exhibit, cu-
rated by the College Women's
Club/Berkeley Branch of the American

Association of University Women and
the Berkeley Historical Society, cele-
brates how women shaped Berkeley's
history, working alone and through their
clubs. A women's history lecture series
is also planned. At the Berkeley History
Center, 1931 Center St. Details: 848-
0161. Admission free.

Outdoors

■ The UC Berkeley Botanical Garden,
200 Centennial Drive, Strawberry
Canyon, offers a free sick plant clinic on
the first Saturday of every month from 9
a.m. to noon. Dr. Raabe will diagnose.
Details: 643-2755.

■ Learn to feed and care for orphaned
baby birds: house sparrows, starlings
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Stage/dance/film

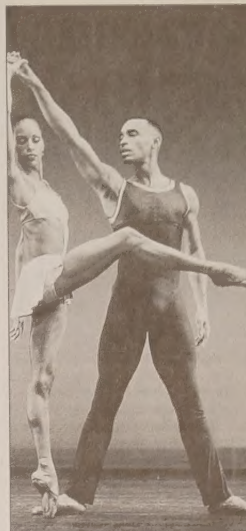
■ The Traveling Jewish Theatre pre-
sents the play "Times Like These," Feb.
26 through Feb. 29, at Julia Morgan
Theater, 2640 College Ave. Cost: \$18-
\$30. For more information, call 415-285-

8080 or visit the Web site at
www.aljt.com.

■ Cal Performances presents the
"Dance Theatre of Harlem" through
Feb. 1 at UC Berkeley, 101 Zellerbach
Hall. Under the artistic direction of
choreographer Arthur Mitchell, the
African-American ballet company has
set standards for neoclassical ballet for
35 years. Hours: 8 p.m. Jan. 28-30; and
Jan 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. on Jan. 31. A
special one-hour show for students
takes place at 11 a.m. Jan. 29. Tickets:
\$32, \$42, \$52 available through the Cal
Performances ticket office; 510-642-
9988 to charge by phone; at
www.calperfs.berkeley.edu; and at the
door.


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call Candice Schott, at 510-643-1924 or
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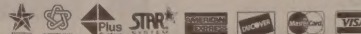
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ACT registration open for college-bound

STAFF REPORT

High school students can take the ACT Assessment on April 3, the next nationwide test date. The registration postmark deadline is Feb. 27. Late registration postmark deadline is March 12; an additional fee is required for late registration.

ACT scores are accepted by

virtually all colleges and universities in the nation, including all Ivy League schools, to help make admissions decisions. The test fee is \$26.

For details, including registration forms and test locations, students should see their high school guidance counselors or visit www.act.org.



GREGORY URQUIAGA/STAFF

THE NEW Longs Drugs location in a former thrift store is small by chain standards but one of the larger retailers on Solano Avenue.

Little Longs location focuses on pills, potions

By Alan Lopez

STAFF WRITER

ALBANY — The focus of the new Longs Pharmacy on the east end of Solano Avenue is on filling prescriptions and selling over-the-counter medications, though the store also carries many of the items people have come to expect of the Walnut Creek-based chain, such as frozen meals and dairy products, greeting cards, cosmetics and photo processing.

The 7,800-square-foot store, which opened Nov. 14 at 1382 Solano Avenue, is about a third the size of an average Longs Drug store, said Longs director of investor relations, Phyllis Proffer. Its location was formerly occupied by a Salvation Army Thrift Store.

"Occasionally we'll add a smaller-sized store with a pharmacy," Proffer said. "It's primarily for the convenience of our customers."

The store is open 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday. The pharmacy operates the same hours but opens an hour later, and on Saturday, closes two hours earlier. The phone number is 510-559-3410.

The Albany store was the 31st Longs to open in Alameda County. A store that opened a week later at University and San Pablo avenues in Berkeley was the 32nd.

Reach Alan Lopez at 510-243-3578 or at alopez1@cctimes.com.

Bridal

FROM PAGE A1

bring in money for redevelopment and encourage new retail stores to set up shop, said planning manager Dave Dowswell.

Leonard Watts and his wife, Jeanette, have been selling wedding dresses for 13 years and have two other stores: one in their native Sacramento and one in Fremont.

The Albany store, scheduled to open mid-February, will stock more than 2,000 wedding dresses, a similar number of prom dresses and thousands of accessories.

A 42-foot tower reading "Bridal Evening Prom Superstore" will be visible from the Interstate 80 freeway, one reason the Watts wanted to locate there.

"Our plan and intention is to turn this (building) into a really spiffy-looking first-class operation," Leonard Watts said. "While we would certainly benefit by having the rest of the street move in the same direction we're moving, I believe it's going to be very long process for that to occur."

The city has no ideas for what Cleveland Avenue should look like, though the street was given redevelopment status in 1998. That gives the city's redevelopment agency the ability to collect property taxes from that area,

based on how much property values increase. That money can then be reinvested to make improvements in the same area.

Cleveland Avenue needs sewer and storm drain improvements, and there may be a desire to underground utility lines, Dowswell said. The city has no plans to make those improvements.

Unlike Target, which was also approved last year in a redevelopment area, the bridal superstore elicited no resident opposition. Dowswell expects city leaders and residents to support retail uses on Cleveland Avenue as long as they improve the area and are not a financial burden.

However, no new stores are expected soon. No other businesses have applied for city permits and many of the current businesses on Cleveland Avenue are firmly locked into the area, Dowswell said.

Reach Alan Lopez at 510-243-3578 or at alopez1@cctimes.com.

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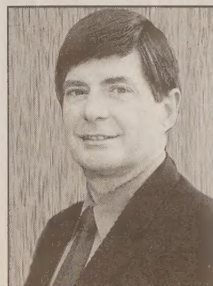
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Pharmacy

FROM PAGE A1

compounding — mixing drugs or altering dosage to create specialized medicines. He'll be doing that exclusively at his new business, ScriptWorks, on 480 N. Wight Lane in Walnut Creek.

"I like meeting people and establishing relationships with customers and doctors," said Brensel, wearing a black tie adorned with colorful pills and a white lab coat.

"The everyday running of the business is probably not my favorite. But speaking to local groups, visiting doctors' offices, taking deliveries to people's homes at night and getting to

know customers gives me feeling inside."

Brensel recently moved closer to his work, and that will allow him to involve more in the company; she'll be marketing director. The two sons, ages 10 and 12, will be in the neighborhood pharmacy.

"It's been 23 years in the pharmacy business for me as a pharmacist," Brensel said. "And I grew up in El Cerrito. I know a lot of people here that are my customers."

that's the hardest part of the job."

Reach Alan Lopez at 510-243-3578 or at alopez1@cctimes.com.

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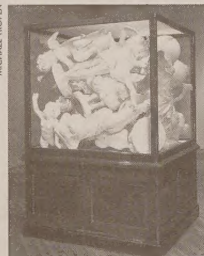
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— Kenneth Baker, SF Chronicle

David Ireland: Box of Angels, 1996.

Henry J. Kaiser: Think Big

A titanic figure of the 20th Century, Kaiser's many accomplishments and contributions helped shape the landscape of California, the West and the world. This exhibition is a long-overdue survey of his life and legacy. [Through August 29, 2004.]



Henry Kaiser surrounded by workers, c. 1944.

IN OUR OWN VOICE:

The Making of a Korean Community

Celebrating the 100th anniversary of Korean immigration to the United States, *In Our Own Voice* explores the unique aspects of Korean heritage, culture, and immigration experiences. [Through November 28, 2004.] Organized by the Oakland Museum of California and the East Bay Korean American Centennial Committee.

(left) Yoon Paeng Ku was one of the first Korean immigrants and was a participant in the liberation movement, c. 1930.

Exhibitions and related programs are sponsored by the Oakland Museum Women's Board, the Institute of Museum and Library Studies, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts.

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Real Estate & Home

Friday supplement to The Berkeley Voice, The Journal, The Montclairian, The Piedmonter

Friday, January 30, 2004

Section B

Timing key to making real estate fortune

How long should you wait before selling your home?

BY NMAN NEWS

When to buy, hold or sell property is the key to a fortune in real estate. However, making a purchase or sale decision is complicated by the fact that the investment involved is not always what you will call home. Real estate transactions are governed by factors beyond your control. Your boss could be laid off at a time when the market is soft. It might be the best time to sell. Or you could be expecting and discover you're going to have twins. When you know it, your two-year home is too small so you decide to move. Perhaps the market is hot and you'll have no trouble selling. But, because the market is hot, you'll pay a premium for your replacement home. In a real estate market, like any other, it tends to be cyclical. When you want to buy when the market is low and sell when the market is high, the real estate market has been on an upward trend with record sales volumes and appreciation rates running in the double digits in some areas. At some point, the market won't go up any more. At some point, it will

It's usually recommended to plan on holding real estate for five to 10 years. This way you can ride out a dip in the market and sell when the market is on an upswing. However, after a couple of years of appreciation in the 10 to 20 percent range, it's tempting to sell and take the profit.

Before you make such a move, consider the following. Currently, the federal law governing capital gains on primary residences is a boon to homeowners who experience a lot of appreciation in a short time period. Once every two years, a homeowner who sells a primary residence is entitled to claim up to \$250,000 of tax-free gain. The exemption amount jumps to \$500,000 for a married couple filing jointly. That is, providing that the homeowner has claimed the property as his primary residence for two of the last five years.

So, regardless of the recent appreciation rate, it usually makes sense to postpone a move until you've passed the two-year holding period. Check with your accountant if you're transferred before you reach the two-year deadline. You may be entitled to a portion of the tax-free gain exemption.

Another factor to consider if you're thinking of selling relatively soon after buying is the costs of sale. There are costs going in and costs when you sell. You may have earned good appreciation in a short time period. But, when you factor in the costs of sale,



DIAN HYMER
house hunting

you may find that you barely break even. Unless you've found a great property that better suits your long-term needs, or you're paying a discounted price on the new place, you may be better off staying put.

Market value issues can affect the feasibility of a profitable sale for owners who bought relatively recently.

After only a short period of ownership, the market may not support a price that's high enough to pay off your mortgage and cover closing costs.

In a down market, you may have to dip into savings to make up the difference between the selling price and your costs of sale.

THE CLOSING: Even if you find a buyer who's willing to pay a high price for your home, you may have trouble getting it appraised for the price. The sale could be in jeopardy if there aren't any comparable sales in the neighborhood to support your high selling price.

Dian Hymer can be reached at 510-339-4777 or by e-mail at Dian@Dianhymer.com.

Real Estate Spotlight:

Tudor masterpiece in Crocker Highlands



SURROUNDED BY LUSH ENGLISH GARDENS, the magnificent circa 1924 Tudor Revival home at 32 Downey Place in Oakland is the epitome of architecture at its finest. Seldom does a home of this quality become available. Located on a quiet cul-de-sac near the Piedmont border, the half-timbered and brick exterior fits seamlessly into this wonderful neighborhood of fine homes.

One step into the foyer and you are immediately captivated by the beauty of the massive beams and inglenook fireplace of the large living room. Light floods the rooms through the beautiful multi-paned and leaded windows. Impeccably remodeled and restored by the current owners, this four-bedroom, three-bath home exemplifies their attention to details and planning. The formal dining room is spacious and inviting. The cook's kitchen has all the amenities today's buyers are seeking and along with the breakfast room has views and level out access to the pretty rear yard and gardens. The large second floor master has a wonderful bathroom, separate dressing room and sweet porch overlooking the garden. Popular extras abound such as a separate laundry room plus pantry and interior access from the garage. Best of all, this gracious home provides the perfect venue for formal entertaining or casual living and is a real joy to call home.

Price: \$1,350,000
Listing agent: Leslie Avant at Pacific Union, 510-338-1341.

Real estate sales, median home price hit new records

Median price recovers, tops \$400,000 again, Realtor association reports

The median price of an existing home in California in December increased 19.4 percent and sales increased 11 percent compared to the same period a year ago, according to the California Association of Realtors (C.A.R.).

"The median price of a home in

California topped \$400,000 for the second time in 2003, hitting a record \$404,520 last month," said C.A.R. President Ann Pettjohn. "Demand for homes continued unabated, propelled by mortgage rates that remained below 6 percent and an extremely low inventory of homes for sale."

Closed escrow sales of existing, single-family detached homes in California totaled 637,080 in December at a seasonally adjusted annualized rate, according to infor-

mation collected by C.A.R. from more than 90 local Realtor associations statewide. Statewide home resale activity increased 11 percent from the 573,790 sales pace recorded in December 2002.

The statewide sales figure represents what the total number of homes sold during 2003 would be if sales maintained the December pace throughout the year. It is adjusted to account for seasonal factors that typically influence home sales.

The median price of an existing, single-family detached home in California during December 2003 was \$404,520, a 19.4 percent increase over the revised \$338,840 median for December 2002. C.A.R. reported. The December 2003 median price increased 5.1 percent compared to a revised \$384,930 median price in November.

"Overall, year-to-date sales increased 5.1 percent compared to the same period a year ago," said Leslie Appleton-Young, C.A.R.'s vice

president and chief economist. "Nearly every region in the state posted double-digit increases in the median price, with the Riverside/San Bernardino region reporting a gain of more than 32 percent."

Highlights of C.A.R.'s resale housing figures for December 2003: C.A.R.'s Unsold Inventory Index for existing, single-family detached

See REPORT, Page B9

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<p>Berkeley Hills \$735,000 Open Sun 2-4:30pm A Ranch in the hills! 3 BR / 2 BA, great room with fireplace and open beam ceiling, in-law potential, lots of decks, 2-car garage. Close to Whelan Park and North Shattuck shops and restaurants. Tom Erwin (510) 339-8900</p>	<p>Grand Lake \$488,000 COMING SOON! What an opportunity to own a penthouse condo within walking distance to Lake Merritt! Amenities include a gourmet granite kitchen, a 15' high great room, sweeping views of the East Bay Hills and two parking spaces. Call to set up a showing appointment. Tom Erwin (510) 339-8900</p>	<p>Ivy Hill \$539,000 Open Sun 1-4 pm Elegant, spacious Traditional, replete with beautiful woodwork and original details. 3+ BR / 1.5 BA. Formal living and dining rooms. Recreation room, sun room, breakfast room, sewing room and huge basement. Updated custom kitchen. Level bkyd. Ample parking. Helen Nicholas (510) 339-8900</p>	<p>Lake Merritt \$400,000 Sweeping views of the lake, downtown and Chinatown and out to the San Francisco Peninsula are seen from this spacious 2 BR / 2 BA co-op in Oakland's famous "white glove" building. The many amenities include 24 hr. doorman and secure parking. Call for a private showing. Tom Erwin (510) 339-8900</p>
<p>Oakland \$849,000 An opportunity to own a deluxe condo in Oakland's famous Art Deco high-rise. On Lake Merritt with panoramic views from every room of this elegant 2 BR / 2 BA bath home on the 14th floor. 24 hr. doorman/ valet service. Shown by appointment only. Tom Erwin (510) 339-8900</p>	<p>Montclair \$659,000 Montclair Heaven! 3 BR / 2.5 BA, 2-car gar. Large, light-filled living room / dining room combo with fireplace. Beautiful wood cabinetry in updated kitchen. Serene canyon views. Andrea Gordon Sprague (510) 339-8900</p>	<p>Montclair \$935,000 New construction under 1 million! 4 BR / 3 BA Features cook's kitchen, cherry wood cabinets, granite counters, large living room with fireplace. Family room kitchen combo. Level terraced yard area in rear. Drop by before the Super Bowl - it is worth seeing! Mel Copland (510) 339-8900</p>	<p>Piedmont Pines \$915,000 Brown shingle beauty sited for great privacy and beautiful vistas. 4 BR / 2.5 BA. Family room adjoins kitchen with level-out access to a verdant fenced yard. Formal dining room, huge living room, standing basement for endless storage. Helen Nicholas (510) 339-8900</p>
<p>Lake Merritt \$365,000 A stunning picture postcard view is one of the amenities of this choice and spacious 2 BR / 2 BA co-op on Lake Merritt's shore. Oak parquet floors, an updated kitchen, wood shutters throughout, 24 hr. doorman and secure parking. Tom Erwin (510) 339-8900</p>	<p>Distinguished Home of the Week - LAFAYETTE Great Lafayette listing. 3 BR / 2 BA. Recently remodeled inside. Views, pool, and wooded lot. New paint interior/exterior. Minutes to BART, shopping and trails. (925) 314-1500 Bill Skarada</p>		<p>Montclair Lot \$275,000 Developer's dream! .83 of an acre of gentle upslope with oak trees in Piedmont Pines. Property surveyed, corners marked. Easement for driveway. Soils report, topographical maps available. Mary Hanna (510) 339-8900</p>
<p>Moraga \$739,000 Glorious updated rancher style home in a very desirable area of Moraga with wide lot and beautiful curb appeal. 3 BR / 2 BA. Gleaming hardwood floors and character and charm. Lg. kitchen with granite. Razee Alsari (925) 935-9100</p>	<p>Oakland \$349,000 Duplex. Cute 20's Spanish Deco charmer. Two 1 BR / 1 BA units. Everything redone in '93 with permits - updated baths and kitchens. Nice fenced backyard area with patio. Deborah Riney (510) 339-8900</p>	<p>Rockridge \$749,000 One of Rockridge's most unique private retreats: 4 structures on one lot set off street. Newly renovated house, detached office, studio cottage rental and workshop / garage! Call agent for details. Jeff Auen (925) 935-9100</p>	
<p>DANVILLE 925.314.1500 Relocation Services 1.800.708.7356</p>	<p>LAFAYETTE 925.935.9100</p>	<p>LIVERMORE 925.455.0505 Legacy First Financial 925.975.4300</p>	<p>MONTCLAIR 510.339.8900</p>

Real Estate Focus:**Practical properties in Berkeley**

TWO NEW FIVE-BEDROOM, SINGLE-FAMILY HOMES at 1543 and 1545 Prince Street, Berkeley, sit on one lot. They were built to be affordable, energy efficient and comfortable places to live. The three-story homes maximize use of space and natural light. Each is 2,080 square feet with 9-foot ceilings on the ground floor. Daylight floods the rooms and windows allow inhabitants to look out at the bamboo hedge which runs along the perimeter. Each home has three and one half baths, its own private patio, backyard and two off-street parking spaces. The homes are built of light-gauge galvanized steel framing. The steel framing coupled with structural wood sheathing creates a powerful barrier to heat transfer inside to outside and vice versa. Another inexpensive and seldom found construction modification is provision of insulation between the ground and the side of the concrete foundation to further increase energy conservation for each home. The homes are the work of architect Francis Loetterle, author of "Mass Housing Design Principles and Prototypes."

List price: \$549,000 (each). Homes will be open Jan. 31 and Feb. 1, 1 to 4 p.m.
Agent: Laura Margulius, Prudential California Realty, Berkeley, 510-868-1442, www.LauraMargulius.com for more information.

Before there was a 'there' there: Ante-Gertrude Stein East Bay**Part three of three parts**

About 10 years ago, I got a call from a Realtor at a prominent Independent East Bay real estate office about an upcoming historical listing of hers. She wanted to hire me as a consultant to do some research on this house, so that she could accurately describe the style, age and possible architect of the home to any prospective buyers.

This home was on the fringes of the Upper Rockridge area, in the Oakland hills, above the Chabot Road section of Rockridge. It was a Craftsman-style house, with all of its original details and woodwork intact. It also had an old brick foundation. I explained to the listing agent the significance of this fact.

In all of the incorporated cities of the East Bay, ordinances had been passed after the 1906 San Francisco Earthquake to require newly constructed houses to have concrete foundations. This was intended to prevent the kind of wholesale destruction and damage that had occurred to houses in San Francisco that had been on brick foundations.

Each city had its own deadline for enforcing these ordinances, but none of these deadlines was later than 1909. In Oakland the ordinance took effect in 1907.

Therefore, I told the listing agent that this house must have been built before 1907, since it was within the incorporated limits

of the city of Oakland.

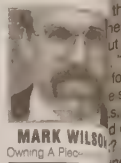
But when I did my primary research on this house, the records revealed that it had been built in 1909, five years after the Oakland ordinance had taken effect. I was briefly puzzled by this discrepancy, until I found out that this area of Oakland had not been incorporated into the city limits until 1909.

This case study illustrates the importance of knowing whether a home you are researching was located within the incorporated limits of the city it is now a part of at the time it was built. But how do you go about finding out this information? There are several ways to do this.

The best way to get this kind of information is by calling the local office of the architectural heritage association, or historical society, of the city the property you are researching is located in.

There architectural heritage associations are listed in the phone book alphabetically under the name of each city, but in the pink section under business listings, since they are usually NOT a city agency.

When you talk to, or get a return call from, a staff person at one of these offices, have the cur-



MARK WILSON
Owning A Piece

This case study illustrates the importance of whether a home are researching is located within the incorporated limits of the city it is now a part of at the time it was built. But how do you go about finding this information?

rent address of the property are interested in at hand. See WILSON, Page 2.

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299 EUCLID, OAKLAND

This large majestic 4-bedroom home, distinguished by its original details, adorns the corner of Euclid and Warwick in Oakland and is only a few blocks from Lake Merritt and within walking distance from the Grand Lake Theater. The main floor boasts of a huge living room complete with a fireplace and a huge attached sunroom, a good-sized dining room with original built-ins and a separate breakfast room off the kitchen, newly refinished hardwood floors, and a grand staircase with window seats and beautiful original stained-glass frescoes that make it perfect for a large family and for entertaining guests. The upper level features a balcony off one of the 4 bedrooms and another balcony off the bathroom. Large fenced and private backyard with original built-in stone fireplace and barbecue. Full unfinished basement with a half-bath. 1-car garage. Check out our large photo gallery at www.panavista.com/299Euclid.

This large majestic 4-bedroom home, distinguished by its original details, adorns the corner of Euclid and Warwick in Oakland and is only a few blocks from Lake Merritt and within walking distance from the Grand Lake Theater. The main floor boasts of a huge living room complete with a fireplace and a huge attached sunroom, a good-sized dining room with original built-ins and a separate breakfast room off the kitchen, newly refinished hardwood floors, and a grand staircase with window seats and beautiful original stained-glass frescoes that make it perfect for a large family and for entertaining guests. The upper level features a balcony off one of the 4 bedrooms and another balcony off the bathroom. Large fenced and private backyard with original built-in stone fireplace and barbecue. Full unfinished basement with a half-bath. 1-car garage. Check out our large photo gallery at www.panavista.com/299Euclid.



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Washing your clothes without all that agitation

number 451 in a series of true experiences in real estate. I kept running into people who kept saying "Calypso" washers, and they raved about them. "Less water," they said. "Larger loads because no agitator." And good too, we thought, but how does your washer have to be so expensive. And they're expensive. At \$1,000 each, which is a lot for a washing machine, each marked with a bright yellow Energy Star sticker. "When used with a gas water heater," the notice boasted, "cost to operate the Calypso washer is only \$15 per year."

Standing there, staring at the control panel, I had visions of washing comforters and my kids' sleeping bags, also sweaters and jackets. Maybe I wouldn't have to take anything to the dry cleaners anymore.

We found that rather exciting although we had no idea what the cost was for electricity to run our old washer. And no mention was made concerning water savings.

But, wow, the features! The computerized controls on these machines provide numerous washing options. Eight different cycles are available, all named, including Bulky Items, Ultra Handwash, even Wool/Silk. Also, pre-wash and pre-set soaking (kinda like a crock pot), default settings for water temperature that can be changed with the push of a button, and a lighted panel that displays, as the

clothes churn, the time remaining until the load finishes.

Standing there, staring at the control panel, I had visions of washing comforters and my kids' sleeping bags, also sweaters and jackets. Maybe I wouldn't have to take anything to the dry cleaners anymore.

Plus, there was a \$150 rebate being offered. And so, we bought our own Calypso, rung up at \$1250 total, including tax and warranty. Our only hesitancy was due to its computerized heart. We looked at one another and said, "Uh oh, there's trouble, it's gotta be like cars."

In the old days, parts could be opened, fixed when broken. But with computers, for sure something will go wrong, and the only fix will be replacing the computer.



TARPOFF AND TALBERT
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And that's got to be expensive. Thus, the need for an extended warranty. The washer is good. It is surprisingly quiet while washing and does take a larger load than our old center-agitator washer. I really can't tell if it washes things any cleaner or if they are less worn, and I don't know if we are using less water and electricity.

There is one odd thing, more of an annoyance than anything: When I transfer clothes to the dryer, pant legs are wound in circles, shirts are in tight turtlenecks. But I shake them out, and they dry fine.

All in all, the Calypso has been quite dependable, nary a hiccup until last week when it stopped still.

When the machine quit, we raced to discover if it was still under warranty. It is. We read the what-to-do section of the manual to see if we could make it operational again.

Failing that, we called Sears Service. Yes, they could come, but not for 7 days.

My son drove off to the laundromat to wash his daily duds, several different times. Finally, the appointed day arrived.

The Sears guy came, and just like an old-fashioned repairer, he took things apart and jiggled connections until he found a loose one in the control panel. With that, he went to his truck where, lucky for us, there was another panel of the right type, and it was duly installed.

But the machine still wouldn't work. More investigation revealed a burned out fuse. A tiny little, easily replaced fuse (but only by a repairman who has one) was the cause of the failure.

We're back in business again.

See TARPOFF, Page B4

We can all take a lesson

As a professional home stager, I have the privilege of transforming houses for sale from cluttered, visual distractions to pristine showplaces.

It occurred to me the other day, that many of the techniques that we at Nest Home Design use in our home staging projects would be beneficial for homeowners to employ as a great way to continue the New Year with a clean, uncluttered, designer look.

So if you want to add one more resolution onto your list, here is one that will give you daily satisfaction as you are enjoying your newly "freshened-up" home. All it takes is some time, a little money and the dedication of following through.

Closets. Closets are the breeding ground for clutter disaster. Think of the stress you incur on a daily basis when you open a closet that is packed full with stuff. Get rid of it. Be brutal...if you haven't worn it or used it in over two years — lose it.

Paint. Nothing makes a home look more tired than dirty walls. If you do nothing else to spruce-up your home in 2004, look around and freshen-up those tired walls, doors and ceilings. To keep it really simple, just re-paint the existing color.

Or, if you are ready and willing for a new look to celebrate the New Year, choose a new color. You will be amazed at how painting is the cheapest and quickest transformation you can give to an interior. If you do not know where to start, consult your local paint store, look through home magazines or consult with a professional designer.

Accessories. If you have had the same vase, candlesticks and photos on the same table for the past five years, it is time to move things around. Give your eyes something new to look at and enjoy. Re-look at your current accessories and think about adding some new ones too. The New Year is the perfect time to shop at all of



MICHAEL FRIEDES
Stage It

If you are ready for a new look to celebrate the New Year, choose a new color. You will be amazed at how painting is the cheapest and quickest transformation you can give to an interior.

those great post-holiday sales and pick-up a new vase, bowl or placemats for the table.

Plants. Get rid of those dying ones and replace them with fresh new ones. If you do not have any, go out and some buy some. For flowering ones, orchids are beautiful and can easily last for a couple of months with relatively little care. Here's an insider's tip that will serve you well, when watering an orchid plant the key is moderation. They do not like to be soaked. Water them only once a week with an ice cube placed in the center of the plant.

If you follow at least two of these tips, I can assure you your home will feel and look re-vitalized for the year ahead. If you apply all four, take advantage of how great your home looks and have a party. Happy New Year to everyone and enjoy your home.

Michael Friedes can be reached at 510-282-1516 or by e-mail at Michael@Nesthomedesign.com. Visit his Web site at www.Nesthomedesign.com.

Experience Oakland's Chapel of the Chimes

Morgan creation
Feb. 14 for free,
guided tour
Oakland's historic Chapel of the Chimes, 4499 Piedmont Ave., in the heart of the city, is the only building in the city that was designed by the architect Julia Morgan.

and Columbarium, the first such facility in the East Bay.

By 1928, it had grown into a beautiful chapel and columbarium designed by prominent Bay Area architect Julia Morgan.

Convinced that the columbarium should be a haven of peace and tranquility, Morgan introduced an intriguing and innovative array of gardens, cloisters, al-

coves, stairwells, fountains and chapels rising into vaulted ceilings and illuminated by dazzling natural light.

Morgan's vision has been maintained as the facility has expanded to one and one half city blocks, to include a new funeral home, which opened in January 1999 — the same year, the City of Oakland designated this historic site as a city landmark.

The Chapel of the Chimes is a community treasure preserved from the past and entrusted to present and future generations.

Beautiful gardens, alcoves, cloisters, stairwells, fountains and chapels rising into vaulted ceilings and illuminated by natural light await you.

Space is limited for this free, docent-guided tour. Call 510-654-0123 for more information and to reserve your space.

The window clinic tomorrow

TRUITT AND WHITE
The rain and gusty winds are not on the way. Now is the time to get your windows and doors replaced. Mar-Par's Marvin Windows and Doors will demonstrate the quality and performance of our products and install Mar-Par's. These are designed for installation and improved

performance. The clinic will be held from 9 to 11 a.m., tomorrow at the Truitt and White Conference Room, 1817 Second St. in Berkeley. Reservations are required and refreshments will be served. To register, call 510-649-2674 or visit the Web site, www.truittandwhite.com.

For more information, call 510-841-0511.

Montclair Better Homes Realty

Top of the hill views from this spacious 4BD, 3.5BA split level contemporary with incredible potential, situated on the Piedmont side of Montclair. One owner and never before on the market, this home offers an exceptional floorplan. Immense living room with vaulted ceilings, wood burning brick fireplace and oversized windows showcasing panoramic views. FDR offers sweeping views adjacent to the open eat-in kitchen with side patio access. MBD suite includes a wall of closet space and bay views. Split level foyer with linen closet separates 2 full BA and 3 large BD. Secluded backyard offers a sizable patio with easy access from the house. 2-car carport with interior access.

5940 Wood Drive, Oakland
Asking Price \$975,000
For a Virtual Home Tour Visit me at www.NahidNassiri.com

The GRUBB Co.

5815 Morpeth Street, Rockridge
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• WALNUT CREEK (925) 938-8484

OPEN 2-4:30

1714 14TH PLACE
\$1,790,000
Montclair Hills. View! Look at the finishes in this home. Quality is remarkable. This brand new home only looks better with you in it! Four bedrooms, three baths and 3900 sq. ft. Heidi Kearsley 531-7000x295

OPEN 2-4:30

373 4TH STREET, #2A
\$595,000
Jack London Square. Open 2-4! Amazing space for an amazing! Spacious 1,850 sq. ft., one bedroom, one bath, rare corner unit filled with light, granite and maple kitchen, marble bath, custom lighting throughout, Award-winning building.
Tracy Butler 531-7000x232

OPEN 2-4:30

167-169 DURANT AVENUE
\$459,000
San Leandro. Duplex-ideal for two owners. Both units two bedrooms, one bath, laundry hookups, updated electrical and dual pane vinyl windows. Large, detached garage/workshop.
Judy Vinton 531-7000x215

COMING SOON

DOUBLE SIZE LOT WITH REDWOODS
Montclair. Three plus bedrooms, three bathrooms, living room with fireplace, formal dining room, breakfast nook, extended living area/family room.
Frank Hennefer 531-7000x235

INCOME PROPERTIES

SEVEN UNITS \$879,000
Laurel. Six one-bedroom, one two-bedroom, one bath, four car garage, separate PG&E. Great rents
Judy Vinton 531-7000x215

MIXED UNITS \$795,000
Oakland. Four 1BD residential units over two commercial storefronts. Five parking spaces off street. Perfect live-work setup. Foundation, electrical roof, plumbing has been redone. Near International Blvd. & 14th Avenue. Frank Hennefer 531-7000x235

TAHOE PROPERTIES

IMAGINE...THE PERFECT TAHOE HOME \$759,000
Stunning great room w/ huge wood windows two eight foot glass doors leading to a large south facing deck. Grand staircase off deck leads to a fabulous backyard, kitchen w/ granite counter tops, shaker style cabinets with lighting & chefs pantry. The great room & kitchen have distressed hickory wood floors
Jim Plumbbridge 800-858-2463

DELIGHTFUL EASY LIVING \$420,000
This charming Agate Bay home features an airy open living area with enough space for a home office, & dining area. Kitchen has tile throughout w/ attractive appliances. Oversized 2-car garage, view of the lake too. Pat Lucas or Carla Werner 800-858-2463

RIDGEWOOD HIGHLANDS CHALET \$359,000
Three bedrooms plus loft, two bathrooms, bright & open floor plan, & great location in a quiet neighborhood. Close to Tahoe City with tons of potential. Carrie Tolar & Jim Plumbbridge 800-858-2463

145 BEVERLY \$589,000
San Leandro. Spacious craftsman with hardwood floors in living room with fireplace, formal dining room and three original bedrooms. Spacious fourth bedroom and bonus room with wall to wall carpet. Pest report available. 10k sq. ft. level lot, must see!
Carol Robbiano 531-7000x292

4840 YGNACIO AVENUE \$289,000
Melrose Heights. 1st Open! Adorable 2BD/1BA split level home located in the friendly neighborhood, adjacent to Maxwell Park. Kitchen and bath have been lovingly remodeled, new paint throughout and new foundation on 3 sides.
Heidi Tuggle 531-7000x286

449 BELGRAVE PLACE \$695,000
Oakridge. Open 12-3! Handsome traditional home, three plus bedrooms, formal rooms with original hardwoods, family room, sun porch, level yard, some Bay Area Golden Gate views. Cherished family home ready to move in. Stan Hammond 531-7000x246

Does your agent educate you?

Based on their backgrounds, people vary in what they need from a real estate representative. Even the most sophisticated buyers and sellers have gaps in their knowledge, including a lack of familiarity with recent pricing and activity trends.

Over the years, my conversations with clients have consistently revealed that those who were not clear about the process when they previously bought or sold were much more likely to have had a negative experience. This is why it is so important to ask, "Is my agent educating me?"

What you need to know

An overview. Pay attention to whether or not the agent has grasped the essence of your personal requirements and incorporated them into the reality of the market. A glib, "Just sign here, and I will take care of everything," is not nearly enough. He should be filling you in on time frames, potential pitfalls and roadblocks and what can be done to minimize them.

As a buyer, you want to know what and where you can buy in your price range, or, as a seller, what you can expect to get for your house given its location, size, style, etc. Before giving any information, the most proficient Realtors take the time to listen and discuss your situation. Your specific needs may have a major influence on how to proceed.

Viewing/marketing property. Viewing property (buyers) and marketing property (sellers) are opposite sides of the same coin. The average buyer is not sufficiently informed about what to look for and what to avoid. Likewise, sellers often do not see the relationship between details about their home and its value.

As an example, buyers should overlook clutter in their evaluation. Sellers, conversely,

ought to be mindful of too much "stuff" and minimize it wherever possible.

Buyers who have been educated by their agent know that the clutter will be gone when they close escrow. In reality, many buyers will not get this information from their Realtor and may eliminate an otherwise acceptable house because it seemed too small or messy.

Condition. Along with loca-

As a buyer, you want to know what and where you can buy in your price range, or, as a seller, what you can expect to get for your house given its location, size, style, etc. Before giving any information, the most proficient Realtors take the time to listen and discuss your situation.

tion, this is the most important, yet least emphasized aspect of buying and selling residential property. It takes years of experience and learning to be able to effectively determine how specific issues related to condition can diminish or increase value.

Foundations are the best illustration of this point. Most buyers and sellers do not have the questions, no less the answers, about how foundations impact selling price. It is often the case that neither the seller nor his agent knows the condition of an older foundation.

I tell my sellers and buyers that foundations built in the 1930s and earlier may have problems. This is related to how the concrete was mixed, the depth of the foundation, whether it has rebar, and other considerations. Older foundations should be inspected by a qualified inspector and, if necessary, a licensed engineer.

Here is where education from your agent comes in: At a Sunday open house, you see a charming home built in 1921, but do you think about how that relates to the foundation?

If the foundation has been replaced or updated, your in-



DON DUNNING

What You Don't Know Can Hurt You

vestment is more secure. An original foundation may be adequate, or it may not. You will

know only after an inspection. If the seller has had one, you and your agent can read the report. If not, and after you have an accepted offer, your inspectors say the foundation needs replacement, you may or may not be able to work this out with the seller. For both buyers and sellers, being educated about this in advance can save aggravation later.

Go to my Web site, www.eastbay-realtor.com, for my previous articles, *Condition Is Critical and Foundations Are Expensive*.

Pricing. Establishing an asking or offering price is an art. Clients rely on their real estate professional for advice on how much to ask or offer. Despite being contrary to common sense, often houses are listed and bids are made without enough information about the property's condition and other variables.

Be sure your agent is knowledgeable enough and has the communication skills to clarify his or her pricing opinion.

Purchase contracts. Real estate licensees are not attorneys; however, they must understand and be able to discuss the purchase contract. Skill in this area varies widely. Agents are charged with acting in their principal's best interests. Handling contracts is one of the most vital of all functions.

See DUNNING, Page B5

Simplify process when building portfolio

As you look to properly structure your portfolio, a multitude of investment options await you. Deciding which types of investments belong in your portfolio — and choosing the amount of each type that will suit your needs — can be a daunting task. But before you spend too much time worrying about whether or not you have the right mix, here are a few simple rules to follow when building your personal portfolio of investments.

Save your money. Some investors spend hours doing research and others just get lucky, but investment prowess is not the only means to make your portfolio grow. The surest way to see an increase in your financial accounts is to make

regular deposits into those accounts and stick to a savings plan. Developing a budget to save systematically is one of the keys to successful investing.

Allocate your assets. You should never have all your money in just one type of investment. When investing for the long term, remember to divide your assets among different investment types — such as stocks, bonds and cash.

In fact, spreading your money between different asset classes can actually reduce the risks to which your portfolio is exposed because some asset classes can actually move in opposite directions.

Even if you do not like to take a lot of risk with your money, you



LEILA GOUGH

Money Matters

should have at least a small of your portfolio in stocks or equity investments. Likewise, most aggressive investors benefit from having some holdings in their portfolio. Broaden your focus. O have your assets divided

See GOUGH, Page B6

Tarpoft

FROM PAGE B3

for now. Good thing we paid for the extended warranty. Without it this service call would have cost \$662.

I really don't understand why the world is becoming computerized. And I'll bet this washer — because it is computerized — will not last like the old washer, for twenty years or longer.

More and more, things we depend upon to be dependable are designed to be disposable. Water heaters, for instance. They used to be almost indestructible, those big old cast iron types that gave a continuous supply of hot water, and did so for a lifetime.

And cars, prior to the computerized versions, were far more approachable. You can't simply take off the cover of the carburetor when your car doesn't start, spray the inside with Quick Start, and drive away. With today's cars, whatever is wrong has something to do with the computer, something that will have to be replaced by a mechanic.

Even TV's were easier before. There were cautionary warnings about being electrocuted but it was possible, if careful, to find the tube that had blown, then go to the store and buy a replacement.

Those days are over.

Pat Talbert and Anet Tarpoft are residential real estate agents who can be reached at 653-2050 and at www.tarpoftandtalbert.com.

Wilson

FROM PAGE B2

Explain to them that you suspect that this property may be in an area that was not an incorporated part of that city at the time it was built.

This will tip off the staff person to look at the Sanborn Tax Maps, tax rolls, or business directories for that area. These kinds of records will help to reveal whether that property was inside the incorporated city limits, or on unincorporated county land, at the time it was built.

Some of the more prominent architectural heritage offices in the East Bay area are:

■ The Berkeley Architectural Heritage Association, 510-841-2242.
■ Oakland Heritage Alliance, 510-763-9218.

■ Alameda Architectural Preservation Society, 510-986-9232.

■ Piedmont Historical Society, 510-420-3050 — this is actually the office of the city building permits department, which keeps historical records in a separate collection.

Of course, you can try do this type of research for yourself, by looking up these kinds of records in the history room on the main branch library, the county tax assessor's office, or the city building permits department. But if you are a novice at it, this type of research can be time consuming, and confusing.

I will close with information on the dates that some East Bay cities were first incorporated, as

well as the dates some of older neighborhoods were

incorporated.

■ Alameda was incorporated

1872.

■ Albany was incorporated

1908.

■ Berkeley was incorporated

1878. At that time, it subse-

quently became known as Ocean

along the Bay and west to

Pablo Avenue, which had

separate city that was first

incorporated in 1852.

■ Emeryville was incorporated

1896.

■ Fremont was incorporated

1956, and includes the 19-

tury Pioneer-era community

Niles and Mission San Jose

■ Hayward was incorporated

1876.

■ Kensington was first set-

up in the late 1860s.

It remains an unincorporated

city within Contra Costa Co.

■ Oakland was incorporated

1852, and in 1872, it annexed

Brooklyn Area, which ran

the Eastern shore of Lake Me-

the San Leandro city limits

most of what is now called

ridge and North Oakland.

added to the city, and in 19

the districts of Claremont,

valle, Melrose, Fitchburg,

Elmhurst were annexed.

■ Piedmont was incorporated

1907.

■ Richmond was incorporated

1905.

Mark A. Wilson can be

reached at 510-273-9383 or

mail at MarkW@aol.com.

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iving back to the community

Another banner year for Red Oak Realty's "ROOF"

RED OAK REALTY
In 2003, a year when corporate giving is down, Red Oak Opportunity Foundation (ROOF) raised more than \$60,000, which it awarded to deserving local charitable organizations. This year Red Oak Realty honored 21 organizations at its annual ROOF award presentation on Jan. 23 at its Pleasanton Valley Office in Oakland.

Originally funded by Red Oak Realty agents and matching grants from the company, ROOF was born in 1985 out of a desire to give back to the communities Red Oak serves. ROOF contributions come primarily from the agents and the company, but from matching donations by clients, friends, and business associates as well.

In 2002, over \$50,000 in grants was awarded to 28 groups. In the past 18 years, ROOF has donated more than \$300,000 to deserving nonprofits, educational, and other organizations that do not receive significant funding from other sources.

ROOF is a 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable foundation. Contributions

are tax deductible and 100 percent is passed through to grant recipients. A committee — appointed by Red Oak's board of directors — is composed of agents and Red Oak Realty owners. This committee makes recommendations for the distribution of grants.

Nonprofit organizations that wish to be considered for a ROOF grant, or individuals who wish to make a donation to ROOF, should contact Peter Campbell at 510-280-2134 or Bob Blumberg at 510-280-2132.

Red Oak Realty, 80 agents strong, has been providing real estate services to East Bay residents for over 28 years and is still independently owned and operated by its original founders.

For many years the San Francisco Business Times has included the company in its list of "Most Productive 25 Real Estate Companies" in the greater five-county Bay Area. The company serves the communities of Oakland, Piedmont, Berkeley, Kensington, Albany, El Cerrito, Richmond and surrounding areas.

For more information about Red Oak Realty and ROOF, please visit the company's Web site at www.redoakrealty.com.

In 2003, a year when corporate giving is down, Red Oak Opportunity Foundation (ROOF) raised more than \$60,000, which it awarded to deserving local charitable organizations.

unning

PAGE B4

What is included or excluded in a contract can have a huge impact on whether or not an offer is accepted, and, if ratified, what will happen later.

Buyers are sometimes told to read certain contract clauses just to protect them. A full explanation of the pros and cons of each clause is provided.

During contract negotiations, a buyer may not know the ramifications of the inclusion or exclusion of a particular paragraph.

To illustrate, a contract without a financing clause does not necessarily mean the buyer is approved for a loan.

In fact, it usually signifies only that the buyer has not included it in the offer to make it appear more competitive. If the seller makes plans based on the incorrect assumption that the buyer's financing is assured, it could be a disaster for him. The best agents make this clear to their clients.

Go to my Web site, www.eastbayrealty.com, for my previous column, *Unwritten Contingencies*.

Types of clients. In order to benefit most from working with a Realtor, think about how you approach buying or selling.

Are you someone who looks at a relationship with your agent as a partnership and is willing to learn the essentials of the business from him or her? If so, real estate

ough

PAGE B4

that they are all working together for your desired end result. The performance of each individual agent will likely draw your attention one way or the other. But you need to remember that your agent really needs to be on the sum of the parts.

Do not concentrate on one element of your holdings so much that you lose track of your portfolio's overall performance. Taking a total portfolio perspective will help you identify and make any necessary adjustments.

Maintain a good balance. After looking on specific percentages allocated to different investment vehicles, make sure to stick to these guidelines by rebalancing your portfolio at the end of each year.

By maintaining proper allocations, you will actually force yourself to buy when the market is dipping, and pare back a little when the market charges ahead — just as human nature may tell you to do just the opposite. Adhering to these standards will help you keep a good balance in your portfolio. Make your money count. Over the long run, two of the things you need to worry about most are inflation and taxes. If the returns on your investments are not high enough to offset both of these, you will not be making any money.

Along those same lines, if you are spending too much money in the areas of your financial life, it does not matter how much you make from your portfolio.

Expenses such as credit card payments and other high interest debt can drain your earnings in a hurry. Paying down — or even paying off — credit cards and other high-cost debt is one of the best long-term investments you can make.

professionals will enjoy working with you.

On the other hand, you may be a successful businessperson who is used to controlling the course of action. Instructing others, even when it is not your specialty, may have worked for you in the past.

The problem is that a top-notch salesperson may not be comfortable in taking direction if he feels it is contrary to what is best for you.

If you choose a less competent, less confident agent, this style might be accepted, but you may not receive the best representation.

Another approach is the client, usually because he is very busy, who gives his agent free reign. He does not have the time or inclination to be educated and says, "Just show me where to sign." If this is you, be aware that, unless you are lucky, you could discover too late, "what you don't know can hurt you."

Final thoughts

Over time, as real estate becomes more expensive and complicated, most buyers and sellers find they need professional help. Before committing to an agent, be sure he or she knows how, and cares enough, to educate you.

Don Dunning is a full-time Realtor and president of the Oakland Association of Realtors, 2004. He can be reached at 510-485-7239.

Not only do you save yourself from wasting money on interest payments, you also free up more of your income to put into your investments, which strengthens your portfolio even more.

Building a successful portfolio is a project that may take a significant effort on your part. But if you keep in mind just a few simple rules, you can make the process a lot easier along the way.

Remember that systematic investing does not ensure a profit or protect against a loss. Investors should consider their financial and emotional ability to continue a program in both rising and falling markets.

Lella Gough is an Associate Vice President with A. G. Edwards. She can be reached at 510-452-8060.

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REALTORS

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- Berkeley High College Information Guide
- Berkeley Public Education Foundation
- Center for the Education of the Infant Deaf
- Marcus A. Foster Educational Institute
- The Ed Fund (West Contra Costa County)
- Berkeley Symphony Orchestra Music in Schools program
- Youth Arts Studio

HOUSING ORGANIZATIONS

- Bay Area Rescue Mission
- Berkeley Ecumenical Chaplaincy
- Mercy Retirement & Care Center Brown Bag Program
- Youth Emergency Assistance Hostels
- Women's Daytime Drop-In Center

OTHER COMMUNITY SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

- Berkeley Boosters (Police Activities)
- Camping Unlimited
- Berkeley Dispute Resolution Service
- Garden on Wheels Association
- West Coast Children's Center
- Youth Bike Adventures (Trips for Kids)
- Youth Philanthropy Worldwide
- National Alliance for Mental Illness — East Bay Chapter

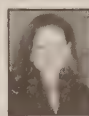
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New Listing!
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OPEN SUN. FEBRUARY 1, 2-4:30PM



5910 La Salle Avenue, Oakland

Charming 3+BR/2.5BA contemporary on the Piedmont side of Montclair. Spacious living room with stone fireplace, many upgrades. Large lot. Close to Montclair Village and transportation.



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Thanks to everyone who participated in our coin drive supporting the Berkeley based Women's Daytime Drop-in Center!

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Many thanks to **Mechanic's Bank** for change counting services!

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California's 2004 housing market outlook

Continued price appreciation, slight decline in sales from 2003's record setting pace

CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS
Sales of detached existing single-family homes are expected to decline in 2004 from 2003's record-set-

ting pace, while price appreciation will continue to be driven by strong demographics and higher, though historically low, interest rates in 2004, according to the California Association of Realtors (C.A.R.) "State of the Housing Market 2003" report.

The median price of a single-family home is forecast to increase 13 percent from \$369,500 in 2003

to \$417,500 in 2004, while sales are projected to decline 2 percent to 584,800 in 2004 from a record 596,500 in 2003.

As long as mortgage rates remain in the 6 to 7 percent range, most households will favor fixed rate mortgages over adjustable rate

See HOUSING, Page B9

NEW LISTING ~ OPEN SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1-4 PM 852 Glen Drive, San Leandro

First open! Three bedroom, two bath, Tudor style home located on a tree-lined street in one of San Leandro's most coveted neighborhoods. The entire home has been beautifully updated with the utmost attention given to preserving the home's architectural integrity. Upgrades include new kitchen & baths, new roof with copper gutters, new dual pane windows, new plumbing & electrical, and new heating & air conditioning systems.



Candy Benny
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Offered at \$629,000



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HOUSE HUNTING? THIS WEEK'S OPEN HOME GUIDE IS ON B13

MORTGAGE RATES

15 YEAR FIXED		30 YEAR FIXED		5/1 ADJUSTABLE JUMBO	
RATE	APR	RATE	APR	RATE	APR
5.25%	5.28%	5.87%	5.89%	5.125%	4.40%

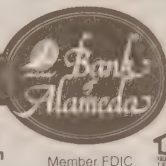


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Above programs are based on primary single family residences, townhouses, and condominiums only. No prepayment penalty. See www.bankofalameda.com for more information. Restrictions may apply. All credit applications are subject to credit qualifications and underwriting requirements. Rates as of January 29, 2004.

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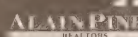
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Millie Lombardi
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photo tour at: www.PruRealty.com/MillieLombardi

aking a look around the East Bay real estate community

news and information for and the area real estate community and affiliated industries.

THE PUBLIC

Have you decided to buy a home? Is your New Year's resolution to find out how? Learn the answers to your home buying questions at the Home Buying Answers Class. The class is from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 7. Senior Loan Officer Margie Lupo of Vintage Mortgage conducts the class. To pre-register, call the "Answers Class" hotline at 888-829-0077 ext. 8610.

The Berkeley workshop could help you. "How To Buy A Home You Already Own One" addresses making a move up purchasing in this market. An explanation of bridge loans and home equity lines are given. To insure your class materials reservation needed. To secure a spot in the workshop contact Helen at Thornwall Properties at 510-488-1950 x250.

One-Stop

Consumers can get one-stop service on the Prudential California Realty website. You can be pre-approved for a loan, obtain relocation help and get selling tips. Check it out at www.pruweb.com.

Inform

The public is always welcome at the Inform Meeting. Crime Prevention is the topic for February. The Inform is sponsored by the Alameda Association of Realtors. The next meeting is 8:30 a.m., Tuesday, Feb. 10, at the Garden Isle Community Center on Melrose Avenue in Alameda. The focus of each meeting is an invited speaker and the discussion of important real estate, economic and community concerns. The Inform is dedicated to helping Realtors stay informed about the real estate market, the community and issues that affect the economy. Agents are encouraged to bring information on new listings for presentation to the group. For more information contact Mary Canizzaro of AAR at 510-523-7229.

e-PRO

Free. The National Association of Realtors supports the only on-line technology certification program called e-PRO. The Alameda Association of Realtors is offering a free introduction to the course, 1 p.m. to 2:15 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 12. Speaker Saul Klein tells how becoming an e-PRO will differentiate you from the competition. The course is approved for 12 CE credit hours. Contact Mary Canizzaro at 510-523-7229 or send an e-mail to staff@alamedaaar.org to register.

PCR

Prudential California Realty offices continue a legacy of active community involvement. In addition to supporting Toys For Tots, PCR agents participate in outreach programs such as Christmas In April and the Education Foundation. The PCR Education Foundation honors Bay Area teachers with grants that to date exceed \$383,000. Learn more at www.pruweb.com.



BOBBIE REID
realtor Worthy

RE/MAX

The 2004 RE/Max 31st International Convention will be held in San Diego, Saturday, Feb. 28 to Wednesday, March 3. The San Diego Convention Center is the event headquarters. Planned events are a golf tournament, the "Night of the Stars" awards presentation, educational programs and motivational speakers. For updated information visit the website at www.remax.net

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See REID, Page B8

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2/1 - Lovely Victorian with unexpectedly modern interior. Beautifully upgraded home with a breezy open living area overlooking a new kitchen. Remodeled bath. More at www.sragarabedian.com
3128 Chestnut Street Open 1-3



BERKELEY **\$739,000**
Duplex - Renovated, built in 1903. 3br/3ba owner's unit and 1bd/1ba apartment. Remodeled kitchens and baths, hardwood floors, all new systems, detached garage
1907-1909 Parker Street Open 2-4



BERKELEY **\$439,000**
2/1 - Absolutely charming, spacious traditional, gorgeous fireplace, formal dining room, breakfast nook with built-ins, hardwood floors, oversized garage, landscaped yard. Close to transportation
3130 Ellis Street Open 1-4:30



BERKELEY **\$434,000**
3+1/1 - Big and sunny with yard and patio. Maximum charm, hardwood floors, formal dining room. Near San Pablo Park.
2734 Mathews Street Open 2-4



BERKELEY **\$434,000**
2/1 - Charm galore 3 blocks from the Gourmet Ghetto! Vintage details, formal dining room, hardwood floors & rear garden. Delightful!
2210 Rose Street Open 2-5



RICHMOND **\$459,999**
3+1/2 - Panoramic views from this bright, sunny mid-century multi-level house. Lots of extra space, storage, landscaped yard, secluded front patio
681 Sonoma Street Open 2-4

EL CERRITO - NEW LISTING! **\$625,000**

4/2.5 - Well-maintained, updated home with great Bay views from all public areas. Large deck for entertaining, huge downstairs room for bedroom or family room, plus workshop. Master suite on main level. 3 blocks from Fat Apples. Unbelievable!

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OAKLAND **\$529,000**
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BERKELEY **\$489,000**
2+1/1 - Classic condo charm. Two-story peaceful private setting, garage, patio, close to UC Berkeley and the Gourmet Ghetto.

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YOUR COMPLETE REAL ESTATE RESOURCE.

Despite risks, open houses remain a fixture of real estate market

BY PATRICIA ANSTETT
KNIGHT RIDER NEWSPAPERS

The aroma of freshly baked cookies fills the kitchen. Free, traffic—light—yellow chip clips and potholders with Howard Genser's slogan, "I will sell your house," await serious, and not-so-serious, buyers.

Fortunately for Genser, the Detroit Lions are playing a mid-Sunday afternoon game — enough time for people to view the Oak Park, Mich., home he is showing and still watch the game. It may seem hard to believe, given the team's track record, but the Lions do affect the real estate business.

Whether an open house draws two or 10, Genser considers it part of his job to conduct open houses for his clients.

"It's part of the service of a full-time, full-service Realtor," he said. "It gives more exposure to the seller," said Genser, a Century 21 Town & Country agent. "And it gives more people an opportunity to see a house."

But elsewhere, the open house no longer is a given in the marketing strategy.

On the plus side, open houses create foot traffic, important particularly in a slower market, and give sellers feedback relayed by hosting real estate agents.

The downside: Safety issues and nosy neighbors who parade through open houses solely to check out a home owners' improvements and to assess their own homes for possible sale.

Virtual home tours on the Internet also make the open house less of a necessity in areas populated with residents having higher edu-

cation and income levels.

Violet Johnson, a Realtor with Satisfaction, a Southfield, Mich., real estate company, estimates that she conducts an open house only 5 percent of the time. "I do, when I have a nice house in a nice area," she said. "I don't like to hold them for homes when people are still living in them. I don't want to have to watch their stuff."

Michael Carolan, a licensed real estate broker with RE/MAX Blue Skies of Shelby Township, said he almost never holds open houses because of crime concerns and a preference to screen viewers first before showing them a home.

The corporate office, RE/MAX International, conducted the first of what is expected to be several safety awareness-training seminars this fall.

"Most of us have read or heard about the recent rash of crimes against real estate agents and/or their clients," said Margaret Kelly, corporate president, in a statement explaining the seminar. "In the busy world of real estate, it is so easy to brush such news aside or say to ourselves — 'that won't happen in this town.' Well, guess what — it has! And, these kinds of crimes could happen again at any time, in any town or city."

Yet, owners selling their own homes often find the open house the best way to generate interest, along with signs and newspaper ads.

In fact, the more open houses, the better, these homeowners say.

"We have them every time we know we'll be at home for a while," said Jeff Lanier, who hopes to sell his Oak Park home by April, when

SOME TIPS FOR STAGING A SUCCESSFUL OPEN HOUSE:

Declutter — Box your treasures and streamline the look. Less is more.

Clean up — Empty the trash; wash the dishes; scour the tub grout.

Fix up — Take care of loose locks, burned-out light bulbs.

Get advice — Ask friends to walk through the home and tell you if they'd buy it.

Advertise — Put up at least a half-dozen "open house" signs on busy street corners. Advertise in the newspaper.

Good smells — Light candles; use a pleasant spray fragrance.

Cozy up — Keep a fire going in the fireplace.

Anticipate questions — Have tax, municipal and education information ready about your community.

he and his wife will move into their new home in Rochester. He plasters his 11 Mile and Coolidge neighborhood with signs the days of his open houses. "Helium balloons really help," he adds, sitting doing bills in his home while waiting for people to ring the doorbell.

Roger Van Tassel has conducted three open houses during the past two months for his home in the Green Acres subdivision of Detroit.

Coached by tips from the Web site www.forsalebyowner.com, Tassel readied his home for an open house with navy bean soup simmering in the kitchen and a fire giv-



HOWARD GENSER, a real estate agent with Century 21 Town & Country, talks on his cell phone while waiting for people to come to an open house in Oak Park, Michigan.

Open houses create foot traffic, important particularly in a slower market, and give sellers feedback relayed by hosting real estate agents.

ing the stylish, immaculate home an inviting touch.

Realtors committed to offer houses vary in how often they open them to a home.

"There are no strict rules," said Lesley Gore, Realtor associate, with Real Estate One's Farmington Hills office. "Sometimes we hold them immediately; other times, we wait to see the interest."

Her partner, Steve Cash, said that in his 28 years in the business, he's only sold three homes from an open house. He and Gore convinced the owners of a to hold an open house when it didn't sell for

more than a month. "It's a nice house if we can just get people in to see it," Gore said.

A good open house, agents say, typically draws five to 10 people, even in popular communities like Huntington Woods, Mich., where solid city services, tree-lined streets with stately homes and a proximity to Detroit and other suburbs make it a coveted address.

One recent Sunday, a dozen visitors signed the book Jane Solomon, a longtime Huntington Woods—area Realtor, uses for open houses.

Viewers stopping by the home

included a few former customers who came by to peek at the Solomon, who partners with daughter, Linda, through the Ingham office of Chamberlain Realtors, a division of Prudential. Solomon stands ready with facts on Huntington Woods and a map with open houses that day.

Several viewers scouted house for friends eager to move to the suburb.

Solomon considers the house a mainstay, whether it's a trickle or a torrent.

"If you are in real estate, work on Sundays," she said.

Reid

FROM PAGE B7

their members to become involved. Create new business relationships and help your association achieve positive results. Volunteer for one of the many committees. Be of assistance and have a voice. Contact your local association for more information.

BROKERS

Bob Valva of Valva Realty invites Oakland real estate brokers to attend the Oakland Realtors Commercial & Industrial Brokers Committee. According to Valva, the group was appointed years ago, by the Oakland mayor to facilitate city sales and leasing. The committee's purpose is to help build Oakland. The next meeting is Thursday, Feb. 12, at the OAR Auditorium on Webster Street. If you would like to attend call Valva at 510-451-7317.

E-DIRECTORY

Improve your business with goods and services meant personally for you. Check out vendor listings at the NAR Supplier E-Directory. This online Yellow Pages-type directory includes product and

vendor contact information. To access the directory go to www.realtor.org/Directory.

SAFETY

The National Association of Realtors is pleased to announce the first safety product for improving Realtor safety, Mobile Callback. Realtors receive pre-arranged calls on their mobile phones to monitor their location and well being. This system is helpful at open houses and showings. Anyone that spends time with people they don't know, as part of their business can use this product to provide a higher level of safety. To order Mobile Callback or find out more visit mobilecallback.com.

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WHO?

The Alameda Association of Realtors recently recognized the contributions of two members. Hon-

ored for exceptional service was Realtor of the Year **Ann Bracci** of Gallagher & Lindsey and Affiliate of the Year **Tracy Frontin-Greene** of Fidelity National Home Warranty.

Each year, the Berkeley Association of Realtors presents special awards for outstanding achievement. Recipients included **Miriam Ng** of Korman & Ng and **Jeannie Borden** of First California Title. Ng is the recipient of the 2003 Realtor of the Year Award. Borden received recognition as the 2003 Affiliate of the Year.

WHAT?

Someone new at your company? Something special your company is doing? Changing locations? Putting on a seminar? Let me know. I'd love to let the world know. Information deadline is two weeks before the event. Send an email to bobbierid@mindspring.com. Fax your info to me at 510-441-7191. Call me at 510-441-7190.

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER.

Question: I have an apartment easement for ingress and egress across my neighbor's property. This is for a driveway that allows access to my truck-ender garage.

My neighbor has recently told me that I can no longer shovel or plow snow from the easement onto the noneasement portion of his property. There is no formal maintenance agreement. I also have not had a location to store the snow on my property and my only option would be to truck the snow away.

Who is responsible for the snow removal given that it is his property and I only have an easement? Also, if I am responsible,

can I be forced to truck the snow away?

Answer: Your use for an easement is for ingress and egress. You have no right to use noneasement property in any manner without the permission of the owner. If you want to use the easement, it is your problem to make the access suitable for your use, which will require moving the snow to any place other than your neighbor's property.

Provided the snow does not get too deep this year in Minnesota, an option would be to just drive over the snow and pack it in place. Many folks in the upper Midwest use this method to



TOM HAMILTON
Real Estate Q&A

smooth out the driving surface the colder winter months.

Tom Hamilton, Ph.D., is an associate professor at the Shenkar Center for Real Estate Education at the University of St. Thomas in Minneapolis. E-mail questions to thamilton@stthomas.edu. Include name, city and state.

Ingress, egress are only easement rights

Contact the real estate editor at 510-748-1655 or e-mail devanosky@cctimes.com.

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A sampling of our current listings:

	El Sobrante Beautiful, well maintained 3br/2ba home in a great location. Bonus family room; huge back yard with big deck & views. 2 car s/s garage. New paint inside & out. Move-in condition. \$424,500
	Diamond District - Oakland Handsome 3-unit building on large lot with plenty of off street parking. Two-bedroom unit on top floor and one-bedroom unit on lower floor will be vacant at close of escrow. Hardwood floors; two fireplaces. \$589,000
	Russian Hill Great pied-a-terre. Remodeled studio with walk-out balcony and panoramic Bay views. 1 car parking. 24-hour door person, on-site manager. Ideal location near Ghirardelli Sq., the Cannery, Fisherman's wharf, restaurants shops and transportation. \$249,900

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GOLDWELL BANK PREVIEW

Report

PAGE B1

In December 2003 was 1.8 months, compared to 2.1 months the same period a year ago. The indicates the number of homes needed to deplete the supply of homes on the market at the current sales rate.

Thirty-year fixed mortgage interest rates averaged 5.88 percent in December 2003, down from 6.12 percent in December 2002, according to Freddie Mac. Adjustable mortgage interest rates averaged

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Albany, 41 percent
Albany Hills, 39.7 percent
Albany Beach, 37 percent
Albany Hills, 36.7 percent
Albany, 36.5 percent

percent in December 2003 compared to 4.12 percent in December 2002

The median number of days it took to sell a single-family home in December 2003, compared to 28 days (revised) for the same period a year ago.

The MLS median price and sales for detached homes are generated from a survey of more than 90 realtors throughout the Albany area. The MLS median price and sales for condominiums are based on a survey of more than 60 associations. The median price for both detached homes and condominiums is based on closed escrow sales.

In a separate report covering the Albany area, DataQuick Information Systems, 93.7 percent or 371 of 395 cities and communities showed an increase in their real estate median home prices from December 2002 to December 2003. DataQuick statistics are based on county records data and not on MLS information. DataQuick Information Systems is a subsidiary of Vancouver-based Donald Dettwiler and Associates.

Large changes in local median home prices typically indicate both home price appreciation, and large shifts in the composition of housing market activity. The DataQuick report indicates that home prices may be exaggerated by compositional changes in housing demand. The DataQuick report is listing median home prices for Albany cities and counties are available through C.A.R.

Headquartered in Los Angeles, the California Association of Realtors (CARA) is one of the largest real estate trade organizations in the United States, with more than 100,000 members dedicated to the advancement of professionalism in real estate.

Housing

PAGE B6

According to the report, however, the share of adjustable rate mortgages will climb in the year ahead. Supply conditions in the market will remain very tight, and the potential to set new record in the coming year.

Strengthening economic conditions should drive job growth and household incomes should head upward, adding fuel to the housing market," said C.A.R. Vice President and Chief Economist Leslie Appleton Young. "Repeat buyers will continue to dominate the market in 2004, rolling their gains on prior home sales into subsequent home purchases. Job growth was nil over the past three years, but households' jobs saw their incomes increase," she said.

With job numbers on the rise, there will be a spurt in household income growth. The cooling effects on the housing market of rising mortgage rates will be partially offset by gains in household incomes, leading to continued strength in the housing market."

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2945 RAWSON, OAKLAND, MAXWELL PARK BEAUTY! 3 bedrooms, 1 bath, hardwood floors, sunny formal dining, fireplace and great condition. Finished basement, large level lot and 2 car garage. \$469,900. Deb Gracetti, 510-459-7623



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835 LAUREL, ALAMEDA, QUINTESSENTIAL CRAFTSMAN. 4 bdrms, 2 baths, hardwood floors, landscaped yard, big basement with workshop, & play area. Lagoon view from study. \$699,000. Pacific, 510-748-1148 or Rick, 510-748-1168



OPEN SAT. SUN. 2-4

1336-1338 CARRISON ST. BERKELEY 2 HOUSES ON 1 LOT. Berkeley Bungalow with 2 bedrooms, 1 bath, updated kitchen & bath. 2nd house is a 1 bedroom, 1 bath cottage. Shared yard with plenty of room for vegetable and floral gardens & outdoor enjoyment. \$555,000. Basins's, 510-506-2051 & Constance Farber, 510-748-1126



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1619 - 46TH AVE., OAKLAND, SIX STUDIO UNITS. Great starter rental, off street parking and close to BART. \$349,000. Troy Staten, 510-748-1125

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Sat., Feb. 21, 10 - Noon 1553 MLK Jr. Way @ Cedar St., Berkeley
Berkeley Association of Realtors Auditorium

NEW LISTING ~ OPEN SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2-4:30PM



2034 Hoover Avenue, Oakmore

Abundant light, bay views and quality decor harmonize in this remodeled Oakland Hills home. Use of natural stone is prevalent and hardwood floors are throughout most of the spaces. A well-planned kitchen features quality appliances and cabinetry and access to the garden and patio. The location is within minutes of Montclair and Rockridge.

- Striking bay views • 3 bedrooms/2.5 baths, including master suite
- Family room • Landscaped garden and patio • 2 fireplaces • Detached garage

Offered at \$739,000



Donna Costella

Senior Sales Consultant. (510) 338-1355



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MIDTOWN
LOFTS

426 27th Street, Oakland

COMING SOON. 20 gorgeous condominiums of 18 different designs; Flats, Lofts and Townhouses. This unique new complex with Mediterranean appeal, offers spacious floorplans flooded with natural light, exciting architectural designs, stylish finishes and a convenient location close to all urban amenities.

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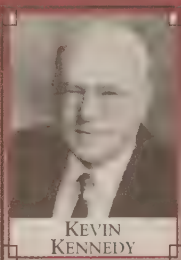
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STAN & SHARON
HAMMOND



KEVIN
KENNEDY



PAT
LUCAS



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WEEKLY SALES

ALAMEDA

2610 Bayview Dr - \$570,000
2824 Bayview Dr - \$565,000
21 Benedict Ct - \$510,000
339 Broadway212 - \$345,000
1352 Burbank St - \$490,000
26 Castlebar Pl - \$1,890,000
2115 Central Av - \$319,500
516 Central Av - \$650,000
470 Cola Ballena - \$530,000
601 East Willow St - \$294,000
2022 High St #B - \$448,500
1702 Kofman Pky - \$955,000
1306 Mound St - \$434,000
1945 Sandcreek - \$765,000
2048 Sandcreek - \$410,000
615 Sheffield Rd - \$618,000
201 Sweet Rd - \$879,000
3264 Thompson - \$700,000
8 Willet Ct - \$498,000

ALBANY

938 Jackson St - \$429,000
535 Pierce 2113 - \$340,000
728 San Carlos Av - \$620,000

BERKELEY

2418 5th St #2 - \$310,000
1700 7th St - \$625,000
1571 8th St - \$442,000
2135 9th St - \$450,000
1644 Ashby Av - \$340,000
2300 Ashby Av - \$480,000
1028 Bancroft - \$323,500
2709 Claremont - \$1,300,000
801 Colusa Av - \$936,000
2316 Corona Ct - \$920,000
1090 Creston Rd - \$790,000
1741 Garber 2 - \$625,000
2403 Glendale Av - \$581,000
1427 Grizzly Peak - \$489,000
1117 Hill Av - \$392,000
2804 Hillegass 3 - \$379,000
2906 Hillegass A - \$327,000
954 Keeler Av - \$870,000
2322 McGee Av - \$439,000
1301 Parker St - \$592,500
1505 Russell St - \$385,000
2122 Sacramento - \$750,000
781 Santa Barbara - \$895,000
1218 Spruce St - \$985,000
1767 Tacoma Av - \$530,000
1201 Talbot Av - \$412,000
1309 Talbot Av - \$420,000
88 The Plaza Dr - \$1,250,000
1524 Tyler St - \$425,000
1946 Yosemite - \$660,000

EL CERRITO

1529 Arlington Bl - \$720,000
203 Behrens St - \$565,000
628 Everett St - \$400,000
2026 Harper St - \$490,000
839 Kearney St - \$453,000
1155 King Ct - \$537,500

717 Midcrest - \$693,000
10730 San Pablo - \$690,000
2659 Tamalpais - \$719,000

EL SOBRANTE

857 Bridgeway Cr - \$575,000
870 Bridgeway Cr - \$590,000
874 Bridgeway Cr - \$590,000
4760 Bruno Rd - \$410,000
775 Kelvin Rd - \$519,000
4192 SP Dam Rd B - \$197,500

EMERYVILLE

1250 65th St - \$409,500
1245 66th St - \$546,500
1249 66th St - \$506,000
1253 66th St - \$499,000
1255 66th St - \$395,500
1257 66th St - \$496,000
1259 66th St - \$256,000
1263 66th St - \$559,500
1267 66th St - \$490,500
1275 66th St - \$475,500
1279 66th St - \$475,500
1281 66th St - \$438,500
1283 66th St - \$495,500
3 Captain D201 - \$315,000
6 Captain E326 - \$229,000
5855 Horton 413 - \$339,000
5855 Horton 512 - \$525,000
5855 Horton 529 - \$529,000
102 Liquid Sugar - \$256,000
116 Temescal - \$370,000

OAKLAND

1330 100th Av - \$250,000
1907 108th Av - \$369,000
2645 109th Av - \$323,000
2048 12th Av - \$435,000
2310 35th Av - \$468,000
2621 35th Av - \$260,000
1914 42nd Av - \$340,000
2211 42nd Av - \$340,000
848 47th St - \$395,000
2821 55th Av - \$375,000
780 60th St - \$460,000
564 61st St - \$475,000
1156 62nd Av - \$300,000
489 63rd St - \$410,000
2652 66th Av - \$270,000
2027 73rd Av - \$322,000
2651 74th Av - \$265,000
2443 76th Av - \$80,000
2618 79th Av - \$269,000
2344 81st Av - \$270,000
1634 82nd Av - \$218,000
2941 82nd Av - \$290,000
1265 84th Av - \$320,000
2257 87th Av - \$225,000
1809 90th Av - \$135,000
1925 96th Av - \$255,000
2220 9th Av - \$479,000
27 Agnes St - \$850,000
1030 Aileen St - \$400,000
7201 Altura Pl - \$413,000
66 Alvarado Rd - \$1,350,000

6868 Arthur St - \$227,500
2074 Asilomar - \$1,239,000
1419 Aulsebrook - \$290,000
9838 B St - \$220,000
4387 Bermuda Av - \$491,000
2545 Best Av - \$250,000
6950 Broadway Tr - \$651,000
5631 Buena Vista - \$900,000
3059 Capp St - \$305,000
2917 Carmel St - \$540,000
5681 Chelton Dr - \$515,000
6300 Chelton Dr - \$806,000
1 Chico Ct - \$630,000
7594 Circle Hill Dr - \$420,000
6682 Colton Pl - \$655,000
4178 Culver St - \$353,000
418 Douglas Av - \$177,000
663 Douglas Av - \$300,000
4844 Dunkirk Av - \$455,000
2141 East 19th 3 - \$245,000
1232 East 20th St - \$100,000
1667 East 33rd St - \$325,000
9417 East St - \$260,000
3021 Eastman Av - \$230,000
4834 Fairfax Av - \$470,000
4544 Fleming Av - \$380,000
5673 Florence Tr - \$405,000
1728 Fruitvale Av - \$525,000
5743 Gaskill St - \$565,000
152 Glenwood Glade - \$750,000
8954 Golf Links Rd - \$340,000
4134 Harbor View Av - \$499,000
4881 Harbord Dr - \$625,000
37 Hazelwood Ct - \$247,000
6601 Heather Ridge - \$733,000
9932 Heskett Rd - \$275,000
7722 Hillside St - \$200,000
8923 Hillside St - \$210,000
3106 Hyde St - \$408,000
8140 Iris St - \$300,000
385 Jayne Av #105 - \$221,000
3581 Jordan Rd - \$531,000
1 Kelton Ct #10E - \$455,000
1 Kelton Ct #8G - \$279,000
3414 Laguna Av - \$335,500
1555 Lakeside 54 - \$369,000
2651 Las Aromas - \$850,000
4701 Lincoln Av - \$400,000
3294 Lynde St - \$350,000
2901 MacArthur 209 - \$220,000
6724 MacArthur Bl - \$525,000
3000 Madeline St - \$380,000
1428 Madison 301 - \$225,000
6100 Majestic Av - \$375,000
6314 Majestic Av - \$450,000
40 Marsh Pl - \$769,000
3927 Maybelle Av - \$385,000
10983 Moonlight Ct - \$499,500
1508 Mountain Bl - \$600,000
2 Neva Ct - \$915,000
4158 Norton Av - \$460,000
11003 Novelda Dr - \$290,000
311 Oak St #720 - \$410,000
9 Ormindale Ct - \$1,098,000
10855 Packard St - \$332,500
388 Palm Av - \$455,000
334 Park View 206 - \$290,000
3863 Patterson Av - \$450,000
5827 Prettery Wly - \$739,000

10702 Prince Royal - \$531,500
10704 Prince Royal - \$472,500
10706 Prince Royal - \$566,000
5851 Roberts Av - \$391,000
812 Rosemount Rd - \$902,000
10227 Royal Ann St - \$309,000
363 Santa Clara Av - \$651,000
7210 Sayre Dr - \$620,000
3203 School St - \$399,000
44 Schooner Hill - \$830,000
2828 Short St - \$295,000
6934 Simson St - \$340,000
6622 Sobrante Rd - \$529,000
4601 Stauffer Pl - \$559,000
7974 Sunkist Dr - \$390,000
152 Taurus Av - \$1,225,000
5524 Thomas Av - \$652,000
4 Town Square Pl - \$299,000
1072 Treble Glen Rd - \$765,000
2714 Truman Av - \$285,000
1453 Tucker St - \$353,500
4527 Tulip Av - \$495,000
3912 Vale Av - \$400,000
58 Vancleave Wy - \$575,000
2569 Wallace St - \$315,000
400 Wayne Av #5 - \$362,000
3621 Webster St - \$425,000
7801 Weld St - \$270,000
250 Whitmore 205 - \$209,000
3624 Wisconsin St - \$435,000
70 Yosemite 202 - \$335,500

PIEDMONT

23 Greenbank Av - \$895,000
4400 Moraga Av - \$659,000
139 Sunnyside Av - \$699,000

RICHMOND

1415 25th St - \$360,000
650 31st St - \$390,000
575 3rd St - \$360,000
677 3rd St - \$205,000
544 41st St - \$360,000
846 7th St - \$254,000
722 8th St - \$276,000
840 8th St - \$260,000
5710 Alameda Av - \$345,000
540 Alamo Av - \$290,000
4841 Berk Av - \$355,000
6131 Bernhard Av - \$603,000
5440 Columbia Av - \$436,000
2308 Dolphin Dr - \$335,000
3414 Florida Av - \$270,000
5305 Fresno Av - \$525,000
2401 Gaynor Av - \$350,000
2717 Grant Av - \$368,000
6361 Highland Av - \$410,000
44 Idaho St - \$417,500
671 Kern St - \$335,000
567 Market Av - \$198,000
4201 McGlothen - \$266,000
4213 McGlothen - \$245,000
1201 Melville 208 - \$380,000
1205 Melville 307 - \$256,000
2707 Moyers Rd - \$359,000
215 Murdock St - \$340,500
4301 Nevlin Av - \$315,000

754 Ocean Av - \$547,500
2908 Ohio Av - \$320,000
3030 Rheem Av - \$317,500
20 Seagull Dr - \$555,000
141 South 41st St - \$317,000
3612 S. Stoneglen - \$270,000
4463 Utah Dr - \$360,000
837 Ventura St - \$390,000
4205 Wall Av - \$200,000
3706 Woodland - \$632,000
641 Yuba St - \$518,000

SAN LEANDRO

1511 139th Av - \$425,000
2121 166th Av - \$450,000
2091 167th Av - \$395,000
13473 Aurora Dr - \$387,000
774 Barri Dr - \$314,500
700 Billmore St - \$670,000
226 Caliente Dr - \$340,000
486 Crespi Pl - \$391,000
1365 Cumberland Av - \$410,000
14633 Darius Wy - \$265,000
14835 Donna St #20 - \$311,000
917 Donovan Dr - \$356,000
15490 Dowicher Ct - \$450,000
950 Estudillo Av - \$529,000
2347 Fairway Dr - \$320,000
15225 Farnsworth - \$450,000
976 Helen Av - \$330,000
845 Juana Av - \$600,000
1320 Lake Chabot - \$500,000
1032 Lee Av - \$575,000
16292 Lyle St - \$450,000
1595 Magnolia L - \$538,000
2001 Manchester - \$435,000
593 Manor Bl - \$375,000
2272 Marina Bl - \$370,000
1314 Mersey Av - \$410,000
840 Oakes Bl - \$625,000
1662 Oriole Av - \$332,000
2188 Pomar Vista - \$388,000
16427 Saratoga 204W - \$269,500
2227 Shovelier Ct - \$420,000
1372 Spruce St - \$440,000
14526 Tiburon Rd - \$412,000
2077 Washington 215 - \$157,000

SAN LORENZO

16700 Bar Av - \$375,000
1678 Keller Av - \$444,500
544 Pomona St - \$375,000
15541 Tracy St - \$800,000
1975 Via Amigos - \$440,000
15939 Via Cordoba - \$350,000
1313 Via El Monte - \$535,000
1757 Via Escondido - \$415,000
1555 Via Hermana - \$464,000
612 Via Manzanosa - \$399,000
855 Via Mariposa - \$412,000
17132 Via Media - \$360,000
1759 Via Redondo - \$395,000

By the numbers

ALAMEDA

TOTAL SALES: 19

LOWEST PRICE: \$294,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$1,890,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$530,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$624,700

ALBANY

TOTAL SALES: 3
LOWEST PRICE: \$340,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$620,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$429,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$463,000

BERKELEY

TOTAL SALES: 30
LOWEST PRICE: \$100,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$1,300,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$610,000

EL CERRITO

TOTAL SALES: 9
LOWEST PRICE: \$400,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$720,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$565,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$585,200

EL SOBRANTE

TOTAL SALES: 6
LOWEST PRICE: \$197,500
HIGHEST PRICE: \$590,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$460,000

EMERYVILLE

TOTAL SALES: 20
LOWEST PRICE: \$229,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$559,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$430,000

OAKLAND

TOTAL SALES: 131
LOWEST PRICE: \$60,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$1,350,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$391,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$442,200

PIEDMONT

TOTAL SALES: 3
LOWEST PRICE: \$659,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$995,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$699,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$751,000

RICHMOND

TOTAL SALES: 40
LOWEST PRICE: \$198,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$632,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$357,000

SAN LEANDRO

TOTAL SALES: 34
LOWEST PRICE: \$157,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$670,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$414,000

SAN LORENZO

TOTAL SALES: 13
LOWEST PRICE: \$350,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$800,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$412,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$443,400



PIEDMONT \$1,250,000
1850 TRESTLE GLEN RD. (Open 2-4:30)
Stunning Spanish style home with 6+BR/4BA, formal dining room & breakfast room level out to oversized patio & terraced garden. Rosalie Woods x1324

CROCKER HIGHLANDS \$1,129,000
818 NORTHVALE RD. (Open Sat & Sun 2-4:30)
Price reduced! Grand 5BR/4BA traditional w/plus spaces. Refinished hwd floors, landscaped large level yard, fresh paint in & out. Near shopping & transportation. Joanna Hirsch x1366

OAKLAND HILLS \$795,000
4309 TERRABELLA WY. (Open 2-4:30)
New Listing! Chic & sophisticated style in this dynamic 10 year old 4BR/3BA view home. Kitchen/family room combo, additional unfinished space, Sandi Klemmer x1314 & Dick Cohen x1308



OAKMORE \$739,000
2034 HOOVER AVE. (Open 2-4:30)
New Listing! Abundant light, bay views & quality decor in this remodeled 3BR/2.5BA home. Family room, landscaped garden & patio, 2 fireplaces, detached garage. Donna Costella x1355

MONTCLAIR \$719,000
5910 LA SALLE (Open Sat & Sun 2-4:30)
New Listing! Piedmont side of Montclair. Charming 3+BR/2.5BA contemporary built in 1963. Spacious living room w/ stone fireplace. Many upgrades. Large lot. Joanna Hirsch x1366

HILLER HIGHLANDS \$649,000
25 SCHOONER HILL (Open 1-4)
New Listing! Elegant 2BR/2BA Townhouse w/dazzling San Francisco & Golden Gate views. Formal dining room, enclosed deck & patio, spacious custom office/gym. 2-car attached garage. Vicki Woodhead x1334

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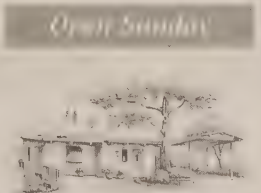
ROCKRIDGE \$639,000
5937 TAFT AVE. (Open 1:30-4)
New Listing! 3BR/1BA. Light-filled craftsman built in 1918. Excellent condition. Freshly painted. Hardwood floors, lush backyard, detached garage. Nancy Noman x1373



SAN LEANDRO \$629,000
852 GLEN DR. (Open 1-4)
New Listing! Charm galore in this Escondido Estates Tudor. Newer roof, Marvin windows, remodeled kit & bath, newer garage w/att. studio, clear pest. 3BR/2BA. Candy Benny x1328



SAN LEANDRO \$549,000
495 DOWLING BLVD. (Open 1-4)
New Listing! Gorgeous 1920's Spanish Mediterranean. 3BR/2BA on large lot. Hwd flrs, updated eat-in kit, breakfast room, gumwood trim & many original details blended w/modern touches. Michelle Miller x1335



MONTCLAIR \$529,000
25 EAST CIRCLE (Open 1:30-4:30)
Cross street is Arrowhead. Sunny 3BR/1.5BA retreat w/tree & canyon views. Open fr plan. Living/dining rm w/beamed ceiling & hwd flrs, updated kit & baths. Decks & large patio. Christian Downer x1340



BERKELEY \$495,000
885 COLUSA AVE. (Open 2-4)
New Listing! Need a Pied a terre? Second home in the city? Totally renovated condo w/style. Approx. 17 ft. ceilings. 1+BR/1.5BA, huge deck. Tandem parking avail. Solano Ave. at your doorstep. Leslie Easterday x1363

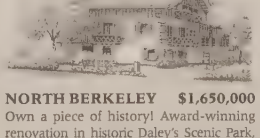


NORTH BERKELEY \$1,650,000
Own a piece of history! Award-winning renovation in historic Daley's Scenic Park, close to all North Berkeley's pleasures. SeeMore @pacunion.com. Gini Erck x1339

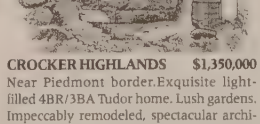
By Appointment
510.339.6460



PIEDMONT \$3,750,000
Stately English Tudor with 4+bedrooms, 4+ baths, incredible architectural detail, library, family room & guest suite. Georgia Cornell x1325

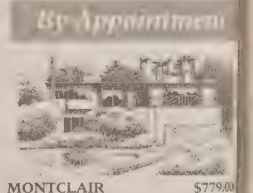


OAKLAND HILLS \$869,000-\$875,000
Alta Villa II. Only 4 homes remaining in this new development! Completion is scheduled for April. Four to five BR, custom touches, high ceilings & gourmet kitchens. Dramatic bay views! David Ichikawa x1331

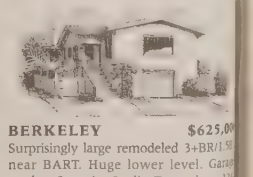


CROCKER HIGHLANDS \$1,350,000
Near Piedmont border. Exquisite light-filled 4BR/3BA Tudor home. Lush gardens. Impeccably remodeled, spectacular architectural details. Leslie Avant x1341

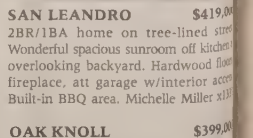
By Appointment
1900 Mountain Blvd., Oakland, CA



MONTCLAIR \$779,000
Piedmont side of Montclair. Graceful living at its best! 3BR/2BA contemporary. Spacious living rm, FDR, updated eat-in kitchen. 2-car attached garage. Abundant storage. Jeffrey Himmel x1370



BERKELEY \$625,000
Surprisingly large remodeled 3+BR/1.5BA near BART. Huge lower level. Garage garden & patio. Leslie Easterday x1310



SAN LEANDRO \$419,000
2BR/1BA home on tree-lined street. Wonderful spacious sunroom off kitchen overlooking backyard. Hardwood floors, fireplace, att garage w/winter access. Built-in BBQ area. Michelle Miller x1311



OAK KNOLL \$399,000
3BR/1BA on cul-de-sac. Refinished floors, updated bath, dual pane windows. Fireplace in living/dining room. Eat-in laundry rm, 2-car gar. Lee Jacobson x1312

Coming Soon
ROCKRIDGE \$595,000
Ultra charming 1927 remodeled 3+BR/2BA home. Granite, Italian Portuguese tile, hardwood floors, w/separate entrance. Large level lot. Dee Knowland x1318

Real Estate & Home: THE place to turn for up-to-date East Bay real estate information.

~ Gorgeous Townhouse! ~ Gorgeous View! ~

OPEN SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1-4PM

25 Schooner Hill, Oakland

...elegant Hiller Highlands townhouse with its dazzling San Francisco and Golden Gate Bridge views will steal your heart! It was designed with a dramatic entry, covered deck and garden, skylights, and custom wood cabinets. The spacious master bedroom has a built-in closet and gym. 2+ bedrooms, 2 baths. This is really a special home!



Offered at \$649,000

Vicki Woodhead
SENIOR SALES ASSOCIATE
(510) 338-1334



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The GRUBB Co.

NEW LISTING



12400 Skyline Boulevard

OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30. An incredible opportunity to create your own estate! Approximately 3600 square foot home on one level. Level rear garden, pool site, and an additional two acre parcel. Be creative!

Offered at \$1,150,000



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PE BRODERICK Realtor

Coming Soon!



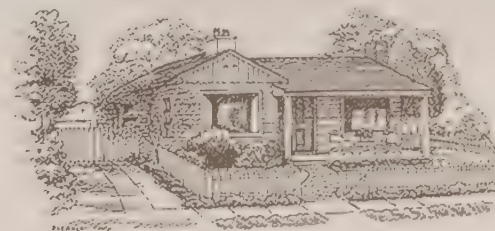
2660 Camino Lenada

Charming 3BD/2BA Cape Cod with many built-ins and Craftsman details. Features random-plank hardwood floors, formal dining room and enclosed sunporch. Gardeners delight with workshop. Located in friendly neighborhood, close to schools and Montclair village.

\$729,000

Prudential
California Realty
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OPEN THIS SUNDAY



111 Ramona Avenue

Open Sunday, February 1st, 1-4 p.m.

Behind a picket fence on a quiet street...Charming two bedroom bungalow with detached office. French doors off master bedroom opens to private garden. Remodeled bathroom. Eat-in kitchen opens to yard. Short walk to Solano Ave. shops and BART.

Offered at \$479,000

For more information call
Ann Arriola Plant

510-527-2700 x27

marvin gardens
real estate

1577 Solano Ave.
Berkeley • (510) 527-2700

OAKLAND & BERKELEY - OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30



5616 LASALLE AVENUE \$2,988,000
OAKLAND. Elegance beyond measure. A new traditional in LaSalle Estates, Piedmont side of Montclair. 5BR/5+BA, elevator, 3-car garage & breathtaking four bridge view. Great location, close to Montclair Village. Debra J. Dryden



12400 SKYLINE BLVD. \$1,150,000
OAKLAND. Create your own estate! A wonderfully spacious, one-level, quality home in Hillcrest Estates. Four sunny bedrooms, great level garden & pool site. Separate parcel included. Angela Wei Grubb



5815 MORPETH STREET \$895,000
OAKLAND. Incredibly romantic Tudor home in popular Upper Rockridge. Built in 1930 w/all the architectural detail you love. Living room w/high ceilings, professionally landscaped gardens & "great room". Anian Pettit Tunney



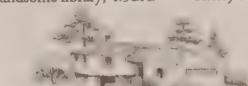
13494 CAMPUS DRIVE \$1,695,000
OAKLAND. This distinguished 3-year-old custom home, designed by Phillip Perkins, embodies grand flowing spaces. Exquisite open floor plan, courtyard & magnificent views. 4BR, handsome library, 4.5BA. Sherry Benninger



550 MOUNTAIN BLVD. \$965,000
OAKLAND. Sophisticated 4BR/4BA designer showcase. State of the art kitchen w/center island, luxurious master retreat w/spectacular Bay views, open floorplan, all on a corner property w/level garden. Dana Cohen



1903 ASILOMAR DRIVE \$749,000
OAKLAND. Enjoy sweeping Bay views from the deck of this magnificently renovated 3-BR/2BA home is beautifully situated in a park-like setting w/level garden. Ford/Flownight



5887 MARGARIDO DRIVE \$1,195,000
OAKLAND. Very special Upper Rockridge traditional on a rare double lot in a great location. 4BR/3BA, hardwood floors, crown moldings plus so many extras. Huge office, two-car garage. Simply beautiful! Katherine Cooper



661 VIA RIALTO \$925,000
OAKLAND. Gorgeous Bay views from this upscale home in Alta Villa off Redwood Rd. Nearly new construction, 4BR/3BA, kitchen/family room, lofty ceilings & curving staircase. Near parks, schools & transportation. Steve Michaelides



2742 GARBER STREET \$600,000
BERKELEY. Asweet Elmwood 2+BR/1.5BA Edwardian w/original charm. Hardwood floors, level garden. Near UC Berkeley & Elmwood amenities. Carolyn Jones
1555 LAKESIDE DR. #105 \$389,000
OAKLAND. This dramatic 10th flr. 2BR/1.5BA unit offers an elegant lifestyle + breathtaking views. Located just minutes from BART & downtown. Dana Cohen

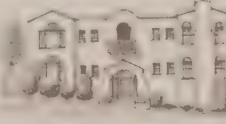
PIEDMONT, OAKLAND & BERKELEY - BY APPOINTMENT



BEAUE ARTS ESTATE \$5,600,000
PIEDMONT. San Francisco style & splendor in Piedmont! Enjoy the elegance of another era. Fabulous gourmet kitchen, remodeled master bedroom suite & stunning formal dining room. Anian Pettit Tunney



MEDITERRANEAN JEWEL \$1,650,000
OAKLAND. Diablo Heights. Magnificent new Mediterranean w/unsurpassed views. Timeless design & features including 2 grand fireplaces, gourmet kitchen and expansive deck. Comfortable masters suite. Jill Carrigan



HADDON HILL FOURPLEX \$729,000
OAKLAND. A very special older building w/original charm intact. Fireplace in 2 units & hardwood floors. Excellent rental history. 4 one-bedroom units. Can be shown Jan. 30th, Feb. 3rd 3-4:30 or by appointment. Carolyn Jones

PIEDMONT \$1,435,000
PIEDMONT. Beautifully detailed Monterey Colonial! This gracious home has elegant formal rooms, updated eat-in kitchen, charming sitting room/office, 3 spacious BR & lower level rumpus room. Mindy Scott

TIMELESS ELEGANCE \$1,549,000
OAKLAND. Claremont Pines traditional with lovely views, garden and architectural details. Wonderful floor plan. Many extras including elevator serving all levels. 4BR/4+BA + family room. Elizabeth Dickson

CROCKER HIGHLANDS \$725,000
OAKLAND. Stately & handsome traditional with a wonderful floor plan. Remodeled kitchen & baths. Expansive decks & level garden. Located close to Lakeshore shops, restaurants and transportation. Anne Van Dyke

FRENCH COUNTRY ESTATE \$3,150,000
BERKELEY. Gated & private, exclusive area near the Claremont Hotel. 1.25 acres, tennis court, swimming pool, gracious lawns & gardens, meandering paths. Views of SF, Bay and bridges. Debra J. Dryden

RARE OPPORTUNITY! \$1,350,000
BERKELEY. Almost an acre of landscaped gardens, woods & creek! Beautiful custom-built level-in home. 3BR/2.5BA, huge family room or home office, private drive to secluded retreat near shops, BART & Bay Bridge. Bebe McRae

BUILDABLE LOT \$689,000
OAKLAND. Wonderful Piedmont side of Montclair lots. Priced separately. Debra J. Dryden

ONE-OF-A-KIND HOME \$2,495,000
OAKLAND. A sensational one-of-a-kind home in popular Piedmont side of Montclair. Walls of glass, high ceilings & stunning living room. Sweeping SF views await you! Great attached 2nd unit apartment. Anian Pettit Tunney

BAY VIEW COLONIAL \$1,250,000
OAKLAND. Exquisite colonial on a beautiful lot. Sweeping Bay view. Excellent kitchen, fabulous master suite. 4BR/2.5BA. Susanne Paul

BUILDABLE LOT \$199,900
BERKELEY. Upslope Claremont Hills lot w/canyon views. Surrounded by million dollar properties. Diane Verducci

CLASSIC MEDITERRANEAN \$1,695,000
OAKLAND. High-quality throughout, 4+BR/3.5BA, pecan floors, grand living room, open kitchen/family room. Beautiful stone & ironwork master w/views. Kurt Buchholz

RESORT LIVING \$735,000
OAKLAND. Expansive two-parcel site in serene setting. 3BR/2BA and fabulous entertaining from family room with access to gorgeous pool and patio. Helene Barkin

BUILDABLE LOT \$199,900
BERKELEY. Upslope Claremont Hills lot w/canyon views. Surrounded by million dollar properties. Diane Verducci

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Hills Newspapers Real Estate & Home section. The first place to look when looking for a new home

marvin gardens real estate



Berkeley, 1806 Cedar St. \$499,000
Charming three bedroom, one bath home built in 1907 in lovely Victorian style. Fireplace in circular living room, elegant dining room, huge kitchen, hardwood floors, greenhouse, hot tub, and wonderful private backyard.

Open Sun 2-4
Phyllis Hewett

292-3054



El Cerrito, 882 Bates Ave. \$449,000
Wonderful Hills location and lovely Bay view. Like new with 2 remodeled baths and kitchen. Two bedrooms, marble fireplace, lovely hardwood and tile floors, wood beam ceilings and more. Beautifully landscaped large lot. Kensington Hilltop School.

Open Sun 2-4
Mary Gray

559-2939



Richmond Annex, 5833 Fresno Ave. \$379,000
Two bedroom, one bath home with eat-in kitchen, family room and a half bath addition (potential master suite), some hardwood floors. Built in 1937. Roomy rear yard, detached single-car garage. Just blocks to BART, shops and restaurants.

Open Sunday 2-4
Joan Underwood

559-2911

7502 Fairmount Ave., El Cerrito
(510) 527-9111

289 Arlington Ave., Kensington
(510) 524-0800

147 W. Richmond Ave., Pt. Richmond
(510) 231-1640

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Market Indicator*
Last wk 5.375
This wk 5.500

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COMPANY	Loan Product Rate/Points APR/Lock	Loan Product Rate/Points APR/Lock	Loan Product Rate/Points APR/Lock	Loan Product Rate/Points APR/Lock	COMMENTS
Pacific West Financial 800-798-7334 DRE# 01124581 Fees=\$1694	30-yr Fixed 5.500...0.000 5.804...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.625...0.000 5.921...30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 4.375...0.000 4.417...30	5/1 ARM 4.125...0.000 4.221...30	Se Habla Espanol. 100% purchase/Credit problems OK Interest Only Loans/BK OK
Premier Mortgage Group 888-389-6633 DOC# 4130366 Fees=\$1992	30-yr Fixed 5.375...0.000 5.435...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.625...0.000 5.653...30	3/1 ARM 3.125...0.000 3.735...30	5/1 ARM 3.875...0.000 3.913...30	Get rates online at www.pmgmortgage.com Purchase specialist-we get loans closed! Great Jumbo and Interest Only programs
Santell & Associates 800-516-0656 DRE#00549593 Fees=\$1745	30-yr Fixed 5.500...0.000 5.592...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.750...0.000 5.790...30	3/1 ARM 3.625...0.000 3.707...30	30-yr ARM* 1.950...0.000 4.759...30	OPEN WEEKENDS / 0 POINTS: 0 COSTS avail INTEREST ONLY / 0 DOWN PMT/Full ind4.87 APPLY ONLINE AT www.loanpaperwork.com
Saratoga Bancorp 800-935-6266 DRE# 01220326 Fees=\$1893	30-yr Fixed 5.375...0.000 5.430...45	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.750...0.000 5.770...45	15-yr Fixed 4.750...0.000 4.830...45	5/1 ARM 4.250...0.000 4.190...45	Loan for all credit grades! No Income Check Loans. No Upfront Fees Purt/Refi to 100%. Saratogabancorp.com
Washington Mutual Bank 925-256-7171 Fees=\$1149	30-yr Fixed 5.375...0.000 5.803...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 6.000...0.000 6.040...30	1-yr ARM* 1.250...0.000 3.627...60	Rental Property 1.650...0.000 4.048...60	Purchases: 5 day close/no points. Complimentary pre-approvals. Available 7 days a week *Pot def int
Western Capital Mortgage 408-815-9355 DRE# 01080489 Fees=\$1630	30-yr Fixed 5.375...0.125 5.476...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.750...0.000 5.789...30	15-yr Fixed 4.625...0.250 4.812...30	15-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.000...0.000 5.065...30	No Closing Cost Loans Available Ask about our 5/1 & 7/1 ARMs & BALLOONS Apply Online at www.lowestrates.com
A American Resid. Lend. 800-586-8470 DRE# 4130340 Fees=\$1624	30-yr Fixed 5.375...0.000 5.466...45	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.625...0.000 5.665...45	15-yr Fixed 4.625...0.000 4.777...45	1-yr ARM* 1.250...0.000 1.310...45	Refi, purchase or consolidate now! Free Approval No Doc Loans *pot neg am M-F 7:00-9:00 Sat-Sun 7:00-5:00
A Superior Mortgage 800-591-4446 DRE# 01351704 Fees=\$1889	30-yr Fixed 5.500.000 5.870.00	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.750.000 5.920.00	15-yr Fixed 4.750...0.000 4.990...30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 4.375...0.000 4.550...30	Open weekends. Credit problems OK *Apply online www.superior-mtg.net
AAA Mortgage 888-821-6200 DRE# 01096146 Fees=\$1595	30-yr Fixed 5.375...0.250 5.485...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.625...0.250 5.737...30	3/1 ARM Jumbo 3.450...1.000 3.530...30	10/1 ARM Jumbo 5.125...0.000 5.165...30	LOW RATES! ALL THE PROGRAMS CREDIT PROBLEMS O.K. RATES UPDATED DAILY @ AAALENDER.COM
AimLoan.com 888-411-4246 DRE# 01235124 Fees=\$2400	30-yr Fixed 5.500...0.250 5.597...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.625...0.125 5.666...30	15-yr Fixed 4.625...0.250 4.785...30	7/1 ARM Jumbo 4.750...0.250 4.394...30	Apply and lock online 24/7 Open Sat. and Sun. from 9am til 2pm. Rates and Fees Posted Online Daily
Amerisave Mortgage Corp. 866-514-7283 DOC# 8035592 Fees=\$1223	30-yr Fixed 5.250*...0.360 5.515...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.375*...0.235 5.547...30	3/1 ARM 2.875*...0.000 3.941...30	15-yr Fixed 4.500*...0.250 4.909...30	*APR includes bank fee. Save money. www.amerisave.com . Best rates and lowest fees guaranteed or we pay you \$300.
Bank of America 877-88-FIXED Fees=\$1606	30-yr Fixed 5.500*...1.167 5.632...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.500*...1.495 5.655...30	15-yr Fixed 4.500*...1.565 4.868...30	6 Mo Interest Only 2.825...1.050 2.728...30	*Purch only 100% Financing Avail - Fast Closings No Cost for Appraisal - Refi today! Low/Mid/Income Programs Avail
Bank of America Mortgage 925-886-3760 Fees=\$1406	30-yr Fixed 5.375*...1.310 5.567...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.500*...1.495 5.706...30	6 month ARM 3.000*...0.319 3.091...30	3/1 ARM 3.375*...1.460 3.749...30	*Purchase only. Call for reference Rates. 925-886-3760 / 877-88-Fixed
Bay Area Funding 925-297-0328 DRE# 769452 Fees=\$2316	30-yr Fixed 5.375*...1.310 5.567...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.500*...1.495 5.706...30	1st Time Buyer 30 4.400*...0.000 4.510...30	1st Time Buyer 5/1 3.500*...0.000 3.620...30	*EFFECTIVE RATES AFTER FED & LOCAL SUBSIDIES FOR 1ST TIME HOME BUYER. Income & price limits. 100% fin., 30 yr fud
BayCal Financial Corp. 408-719-8800 DRE# 01116696 Fees=\$1704	30-yr Fixed 5.451...1.000 5.451...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.500...1.250 5.662...30	5/1 ARM Jmb IO 4.375...0.000 4.421...30	3/1 ARM Jumbo 3.625...0.000 3.689...30	100% Home Financing Programs up to 1 MIL Interest Only to 2 MIL, 6 MOS, 3/1, 5/1 180 Days Lock. NEW Construction Home PUR
California Mgt. Advisors 888-CAL-REFI x600 DRE# 01170868 Fees=\$1992	30-yr Fixed 5.375...0.000 5.465...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.750...0.000 5.789...30	3/1 ARM Jumbo 4.000...0.000 4.035...30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 4.500...0.000 4.537...30	DIRECT LENDER LOANS TO 10 MILLION WWW.CALMTG.COM
Cal-State Funding 800-883-5363 DRE# 00874441 Fees=\$2010	30-yr Fixed 5.500...0.000 5.540...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 6.000...0.000 6.040...30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 4.750...0.000 4.790...30	3/1 ARM Jumbo 4.250...0.000 4.290...30	Cal-State Funding. CAN fund your loan. Rates change daily, call for latest rate We are here to satisfy your needs.
CMG Mortgage Services 800-958-6339 DRE# 01370755 Fees=\$1433	30-yr Fixed 5.250...1.500 5.449...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.500...1.500 5.664...30	3/1 ARM Jumbo 3.500...1.000 3.605...30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 4.125...1.000 4.234...30	Open Sat & Sun. Qual. Quicker & stated income option available. Financing for people with less than perfect credit.
Countryside Home Loans 888-484-7776 Fees=\$1215	30-yr Fixed 5.500...0.250 5.723...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.875...0.000 5.987...30	30-yr Jmb IO 6.125...0.000 6.213...30	12 Mo Fxd Pay IO 1.250...0.000 1.112...45	10 GUARANTEE CLOSING ON PURCHASES 80% LESS PAPERWORK FOR GOOD CREDIT FREE PREAPPROVAL FOR PURCHASES
Custom Mortgage Solutions 800-259-9510 DOC# 6039694 Fees=\$1145	30-yr Fixed 5.375...0.000 5.490...35	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.750...0.000 5.850...35	15-yr Fixed 4.625...0.375 4.880...35	COFI 30 yr ARM 1.950*...0.000 4.880...60	*Fast! Fast! Closings! *No DOC to \$1M. *Loans for A-B-C-D Credit. 100% Purchase *Loans to \$4,000,000. Call for Approval
ditech.com 800-395-1376 DOC# 8132004 Fees=\$1880	30-yr Fixed 5.125...2.000 5.422...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.375...2.000 5.622...30	15-yr Fixed 4.250...2.000 4.746...30	15-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.000...2.000 5.399...30	Apply online at www.ditech.com . *Your mortgage solution. Delivered!
Downey Savings & Loan 800-798-2148 DOC# 6037471 Fees=\$1428	30-yr Fixed 5.375...1.375 5.527...45	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.500...1.875 5.686...45	1-mo COFI ARM* 1.250...1.000 4.503...45		Direct lender. 45 yrs experience; fixed & adjust rate mtgs; *Pot neg. amort. Apply online at www.downeysavings.com
First Blackhawk Financial 800-796-MARY DRE# 01144055 Fees=\$1988	30-yr Fixed 5.750...0.000 5.842...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.750...0.000 5.789...30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 4.500...0.000 4.537...30	10/1 ARM 5.250...0.000 5.288...30	JUMBO AND SUPER JUMBO SPECIALIST FAST APPROVALS, 0 POINT 0 FEE LOANS Call 7days wk mlgthell@1stblackhawk.com
Golden Horizon Mortgage 877-414-8280 DRE# 01316954 Fees=\$1852	30-yr Fixed 5.500...0.000 5.575...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 6.000...0.000 6.033...30	15-yr Fixed 4.875...0.000 4.947...30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 4.000...1.000 4.112...30	OPEN WEEKENDS, FAST & EZ APRVAL, CASH OUT NO FEES HOME EQUITY LOAN 3.95% 877-414-8280 or WWW.CALFIRSTLENDING.COM
Imperial Mortgage 800-961-2274 DRE# 01033932 Fees=\$1453	30-yr Fixed 5.250...1.000 5.440...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.500...1.000 5.690...30	15-yr Fixed 4.500...1.000 4.190...30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 3.875...1.000 4.070...30	DON'T BE "LURED IN" BY LOW QUOTES! CALL ME FOR A HONEST, LOCKABLE RATE! FIND OUT WHY I GET SO MANY REFERRALS I CALL NOW!!
Lendia 888-221-9787 DOC# 6038477 Fees=\$1352	30-yr Fixed 5.125...1.875 5.380...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.750...0.000 5.860...30	15-yr Fixed 4.250...1.875 4.440...30	1-yr ARM* 1.250...0.000 3.340...60	Low rates with NO POINTS ALSO NO CLOSING COSTS AVAIL *Pot neg am Pics. online www.lendia.com
Matrix Investment Corp. 800-366-8916 DOC# 4130418 Fees=\$1831	30-yr Fixed 5.000...1.880 5.232...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.250...1.890 5.408...30	15-yr Fixed 4.125...1.990 4.606...30	30-yr Fixed 0 Pts 5.375...0.000 5.481...30	Good & Bad Credit Considered. Brokers welcome! Great Commercial Loans! visit us at www.matrixinvestmentcorp.com
Mortgage Center USA 800-640-5588 DRE# 00881816 Fees=\$1770	30-yr Fixed 5.125...2.000 5.421...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.250...2.000 5.491...30	15-yr Fixed 4.375...2.000 4.720...30	10/1 Fixed/ARM 4.750...2.000 4.980...30	5/1 3.500 2pts 3.800 APR WOW! INT ONLY NO COST LOANS E Bay Offices 800-640-5588 Purchase and Refinance Specialist
Mortgage Market 800-837-5626 DRE# 00887562 Fees=\$1875	30-yr Fixed 5.500...0.000 5.590...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.750...0.000 5.872...30	15-yr Fixed 4.875...0.000 5.026...30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 4.750...0.000 3.872...30	Credit problems, bankruptcy, difficult loans our specialty. all govt loans, 100% loans, credit lines, construction.
National Financial Corp. 510-818-9966 DRE# 965826 Fees=\$1800	30-yr Fixed 5.500...0.000 5.596...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.750...0.000 5.808...30	3/1 ARM Jumbo 4.000...0.000 4.047...30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 4.625...0.000 4.739...30	Easy qualification. Fast approval. No income. No assets. No Credit. No Green Card. Call us
Northern Mutual Corp. 888-441-2600 DRE# 01243581 Fees=\$2348	30-yr Fixed call ...	30-yr Fxd Jumbo call ...	6 month ARM call ...		WOW!! NO ADD-ON FOR JUMBO LOANS! No-Point loans are available!! (3yr.ppt) E-mail Steve@northernmutual.com

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Rates based on \$150,000 loan for single family residence. Jumbo rates (loans in excess of \$333,700) based on \$350,000 loan. All rates are believed to be accurate but cannot be guaranteed and are subject to change without notice. Minimum down payment requirements and other restrictions may apply. Closing costs may vary. Contact each company for details. Points include origination and discount fees. APR = annual percentage rate and is calculated by each company - includes costs to obtain loan and private mortgage insurance if required. Lock-rate lock period. ARM=adjustable rate mortgage. Companies pay a fee to be in this Guide. *Ave 30 yr. fixed conforming with 0 points Fees are estimated costs based on a \$150,000 purchase money loan and may vary from loan to loan. These are not inclusive of all costs and do not include points, prepaid interest, title insurance or escrow items. Click on "Fees" in "Current Mortgage Rates" section of website - contact each company for details. Copyright 2003, INFOTRAK National Data Services and Knight Publishing Co.

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condo with 2nd floor suite
replaced kitchen, fireplace
Nice yard, deck, washer & dryer.
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Castro Valley

\$369,000 2265 Kipling St. Single level 3
bedroom, 2 1/2 bath, fireplace
Some wood and attached garage.
Room to expand! Diana 510-814-4718

El Sobrante

\$578,000 34 La Paloma Court.
Mediterranean built in 1990, 2.5
ba and den, large lot, cul-de-sac
location Donnaluci 510-814-4826.

Oakland

For Lease 1504 Franklin St., #101
Approximately 1815 sq. ft. of office
space available. This is a sublease
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will negotiate longer term if needed.
Rich Krinks 510-814-4802.

\$462,500 1024 Wood St. Beautiful
Victorian - Spacious w/5BR, 2BA
Formal dining, in-law w/entry. Kathy
510-814-4706

\$548,000 13383 Carmichael
lot with paved driveway, in the
prestigious area in the
Oakland Hills. Connie 510-814-4814

\$469,000 533 Drew St. Minn.
2ba home with room & bath
counter, floor pane windows
510-814-4892.

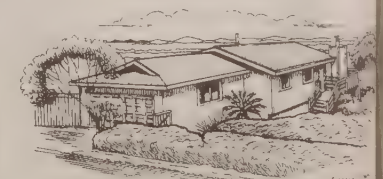
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RICHMOND VIEW



PRIME LOCATION AND CONDITION
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3 BR, 2 BA, upgrades galore! Updated kitchen, luxury
fireplace, French doors, laundry & storage. Deck overlooking
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RICHMOND NORTH AND EAST




CUTE COTTAGE
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New Listing!
SIZZLING BAY VIEWS



4309 Terrabella Way, Oakland

and sophisticated style are captured in this dynamic 10 year old home. Formal and entertaining areas combine for maximum enjoyment and a gracious lifestyle.

4 bedrooms/3 baths • Kitchen/family room combo
Additional unfinished space for expansion possibilities

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Offered at \$899,000



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Weekend OPEN HOMES

Open Sunday, unless otherwise indicated www.contracostatimes.com

Berkeley			Oakland			Oakland			Oakland		
965 Shorepoint Ct. #114	1BD/1BA	\$499,000	1806 Cedar St	3BD/1BA	\$295,000	7883 Arthur St.	2BD+/1BA	\$570,000	842 Walker Ave	2/1 & 1/1	\$975,000
Ann DeBardeleben			Open Sun 2-4	510-292-3054	Open Sun 2-4	Saturday Jan 31.	510-306-8187	Open Sun 2-4	Duplex		5940 Wood Dr
			Marvin Gardens	Phyllis Hewett	The Homes-Link Team	Bayside Mortgage & Properties	Valencia	Better Homes Realty			48D/3.5BA
1700 Third St.	2BD/1BA	\$549,000	1543 Prince St	5BD/3.5BA	3128 Chestnut St	2BD/1BA		575,000	3858 Fairway Ave	2+BD/2BA	6000 Buena Vista Ave.
Quinn Stone			Open Sat & Sun 1-4	510-868-1400	Open Sun 1-3	510-280-2105		Open Sun 2-4:30	Sung Miller	510-381-3028	3BD/2.5BA
			Prudential	Laura Margulius	Red Oak Realty	Sara Garabedian		Prudential Ca Realty			R. Ng/L. Neidelman
1160 Admiralty Lane	3BD/1.5BA	\$549,000	1545 Prince St	5BD/3.5BA	3570 64th Ave	3BD/1BA		575,000	6416 Heather Ridge	3BD/2BA	12400 Skyline Blvd.
Russ Grant			Open Sat & Sun 1-4	510-868-1400	Open Sun 2-4:30	510-339-9290		Open Sun 2-4:30	Nahid Nassiri	510-339-4550	48D/2.5BA
			Prudential	Laura Margulius	Prudential Ca Realty	Myrtice Wong		Better Homes Realty			Angela Wei Grubb
1618 Lea Ct	2BD/1BA	\$555,000	1336-1338 Carrison	2+BD/1BA	3924 Bayo St	2BD/1BA		580,000	761 Santa Ray	3+BD/1BA	6357 Brookside Ave
			Open Sat & Sun 2-4	510-506-2051/74-1126	Laurel District	510-986-9685		Open Sun 11-1	Crocker Highlands	510-845-0211	3BD/2+BA
			Gallagher & Lindsey	The Basora's/Constance F.	Prudential Ca Realty	Sung Miller		Prudential Ca Realty	Debra Alber		510-339-9290
1626 Broadway	2BD/1BA	\$600,000	2742 Garber St.	2+BD/1.5BA	250 Perkins St. #2B	2BD/1BA		595,000	7051 Broadway Terrace	510-339-9290	5887 Margarido Dr.
Krystyna Nowak			Open Sun 2-4:30	510-652-2133	Adams Point	510-506-4698		Open Sun 2-4:30	Montclair	510-339-9290	Upper Rockridge
			The Grubb Co.	Carolyn Jones	C21 Heritage Real Estate	Vicky Friedman		Prudential Ca Realty	Millie Lombardi		Katherine Cooper
1726 Wood St.	3+BD/2.5BA	\$735,000	1358 Campus Dr.	3BD/2BA	1430 MacArthur Blvd	3BD/1BA		599,000	8800 Hanson Dr	48D/2.5BA	13494 Campus Dr.
Ken Ferrell/John McNulty			Open Sun 2-4:30	510-525-2727	Open Sun 2-4	510-748-5300		Open Sun 2-4:30	Rosemary Greene	510-339-4000	Ridgmont
			C21 Heritage Real Estate	Nick Lavrov	The Homes-Link Team			Better Homes Realty			Sherry Benninger
2913 Bayview Dr.	3BD/2.5BA	\$739,000	1907-1909 Parker St	510-280-2138	2679 Parker Avenue	2BD/1BA		699,000	20 Kingwood	3+BD/2.5BA	1628 Grand View Dr.
Lois Hoffman/Andrew Raskoph			Open Sun 2-4	510-280-2138	Duplex	925-200-7853		Open Sun 2-4:30	Oakland Hills	510-339-4700	5+BD/3.7BA
			Red Oak Realty	Billy Karp	Help-U-Sell Heriarte Properties	Ellen Sabino		Coldwell Banker	David Eckert		Claremont Hills
835 Laurel St	48D/2BA	\$799,000	1869 Thousand Oaks	3BD/2.5BA	1555 Lakeside Dr. #105	2BD/1.5BA		729,950	2320 Park Blvd	2BD/1BA	20 Stephens Way
Pacita Dimacali/Kirk Knight			Open Sun 2-4	510-406-6991	The Grubb Co.	510-834-8232		Open Sun 2-4	Kane & Associates	510-290-8818	4+BD/3.5BA
			Jeans Realty Inc.	Diane Sindel-Deutsche		Dana Cohen		Remax East Bay Hills	Jena Ng	510-636-0606	Joan/Elfen
1528 Walnut St.	3BD/2.5BA	\$1,750,000	2245 Glen Ave.	48D/3BA	3757 Fruitvale Ave	2BD/1BA		749,000	4131 Malcom Ave	3BD/2BA	5616 La Salle Ave.
Jena Ng/John Bergman			Open Sun 2-4:30	510-339-4700	Better Homes Realty	510-834-8232		Open Sat	Oakland Hills	510-339-4566	5+BD/5+BA
			Coldwell Banker	Adele Wong		Rosie Nyasether		Remax East Bay Hills	Wayne Wilkerson		Pied. side of Mont.
1333 Bay St.	3BD/1.5BA	\$449,000	882 Bates Ave	2BD/2BA	1407 11th Ave	2BD/1BA		750,000	277 Capricorn Ave	48D/3BA	75 Monte Vista Rd.
Janice Payne/Izabella Lipetski			Open Sun 2-4	510-559-2939	Open Sun 2-4	510-834-2010		Open Sun 2-4:30	The Grubb Co.	510-339-4566	48D/3.5BA
			Marvin Gardens	Mary Gray	Prudential Ca Realty	Camille Rogers		Better Homes Realty			Jerilynn Babington
4136 Bayo St	48D/3BA	\$625,000	401 Seaview	48D/2.5BA	4121 Laurel Ave.	2BD/1BA		799,000	6000 Lawton	3BD/1.5BA	
CP Yang			Open Sun 2-4	510-280-2183	Laurel	510-339-4700		Open Sun 2-4:30	Keller Williams	510-209-9497	
			Red Oak Realty	Charles Turvey	Prudential Ca Realty	CP Yang		Open Sun 2-4:30	Jeannette Muzzina		
2800 Stanton	2BD/1BA	\$590,000	24 Eldridge Ct	3BD/2BA	4212 Laurel Ave.	2BD/1BA		850,000	6116 Chelton Dr.	3BD/3+BA	
Colleen Larkin			Open Sun 2-4:30	510-524-3840	Laurel	510-339-4700		Open Sun 2-4:30PM	Versatel Properties	510-579-7135	
			Millstein & Associates	Sheri Madden	Prudential Ca Realty	Donna Conroy		Open Sun 2-4:30	Upper Rockridge	510-339-0400	
1731 Channing Way	3BD/2BA	\$2,100,000	1490 Rancho View Dr.	5BD/5.5BA	8214 Golf Links Rd	3BD/1.5BA		895,000	5815 Morphet St.	3BD/1.5BA	
Grazina Bivens			Open Sun 1-4	925-253-4601/510-547-1615	Keller Heights	510-834-2010		Open Sun 2-4:30	Anlian Pettit Tunney	510-339-0400	
			Coldwell Banker	Jerilynn Babington	Prudential Ca Realty	Angela D. Burgess		Open Sun 1-5	Monclair	48D/3BA	
2210 Rose St	2BD/1BA	\$469,900	2945 Rawson	3BD/1BA	2450 Carmel St	2+BD/1BA		899,000	2050 Manzanita	48D/3BA	
Diane Ohlsson			Open Sat 1-4	510-459-7623	Open Sun 1-3:30	510-834-2010		Open Sun 2-4:30	Monclair	510-428-0900	
			Gallagher & Lindsey	Deb Gracella	Prudential Ca Realty	Natalie Lynch		Prudential Ca Realty	Barbara Mc Quaid	48D/3BA	
2734 Mathews St.	3+BD/1BA	\$229,000	551 Jean St #207	1BD/1BA	619 22nd St	12 Units		915,000	2718 Las Aromas	4+BD/2.5BA	
Diane Ohlsson			Open Sun 1-4	510-507-5664	Open Sun 2-4:30	510-339-9290		Open Sun 1-4	Piedmont Pines	510-339-8900x215	
			Keller Williams	Sherry Long/Tisa Cadway	Prudential Ca Realty	Janet Flint		C21 Heritage Real Estate	Anida Weyl		
3130 Ellis St	2BD/1BA	\$269,000	4024 Suber	2BD/1BA	4293 Whittle Ave	2+BD/1BA		925,000	661 Via Rialto	48D/3BA	
Elizabeth McDonald			Open Sun 2-4:30	510-522-5827	Open Sun 2-4	510-524-1700x12		Open Sun 2-4:30	Crestmont Heights	510-339-0400	
			Bayside Real Estate	Mark Wyman	Berkeley Hills Realty	Joan Brunswick		The Grubb Co.	Steve Michaelides		
2905 Deakin	3BD/1.5BA	\$289,000	3320 64th Ave Pl	2BD/1BA	2648 8th Ave.	3+BD/1.5BA		965,000	550 Mountain Blvd.	48D/4BA	
Warwick May			Open Sun 2-4:30	510-339-4000	Sun. 1-4	510-339-8900 x238		Open Sun 2-4:30	Montclair	510-339-0400	
			Better Homes Realty	Rosemary Greene	C21 Heritage Real Estate	Helen Nicholas		The Grubb Co.	Dana Cohen		

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New Listing! Charming Bungalow Home



3757 Fruitvale Avenue, Dimond District

Quietly nestled above the streets on a large, private hideaway lot, with warm hardwood floors, a sunny eat-in kitchen, built-ins and a cozy fireplace... A delightful opportunity to own your first home!

2 bedrooms 1 updated bath 2-car garage near parks & freeway

Offered at... \$395,000

LAUREL DIST. OAKLAND

OPEN SUNDAY
February 1 & 8OPEN HOUSE
1:00-4:30 PM

4121 Laurel Ave.

Located at the top of Laurel, this darling cottage boasts views of the Bay. This charming bungalow features two bedrooms and one bath, living room with fireplace, wood floors, large country kitchen, and a small plus room off the kitchen used as an office. There's also a laundry. The garage has been converted to a separate space to fit different needs. Truly a lovely place to call home!

Offered at \$408,000

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LISTING UPDATES

550 Mountain Blvd., Montclair
OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30. 4 bedroom, 4 bath
designer showcase on a lovely corner lot.
Offered at \$965,0001555 Lakeside Dr. #105, Lake
OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30. Dramatic 2 bed
1 1/2 bath unit with panoramic Lake
Offered at \$389,0002448 Chelsea Dr., Montclair
4 bedroom, 1 1/2 bath Traditional with an office & cozy rumpus room.
Originally offered at \$629,000
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NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

BY APPOINTMENT

Berkeley \$7,750,000
Spring Mansion. 9 BR 4.5
BA This home is listed on
the California Historical
Registry. The estate
includes second house w.
3BR/3BA, 2 guest cottages
& tennis court.
Kim & Barbara Marienthal
510.486.1495Oakland \$1,800,000
Spectacular View. 3 BR 3.5
BA Elegant home with
unobstructed 3 bridge
view. Marbled Jacuzzi in
master bath. Incredible
quality finishes
throughout!
Barbara Marienthal
510.486.1495Montclair \$749,000
3 BR 1.5 BA Great Salt Box
Cape Cod; daub & wattle
walls in DR, latched drs,
beam ceilings, built-ins,
usable yrd & patios, eat-in
kit & bay window
Ellen Lancaster 510.339.4700Berkeley \$525,000
Great Berkeley Bungalow!
Many updates. Great bkdy
w. bbq. & hot tub. Add.
space in rear.
Barb Allendorff 510.486.1495

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BY APPOINTMENT

Montclair \$699,000
3 BR 2 BA Monterey
Colonial w/yard & view!
Charming! Big deck off
living room w/FP, wood
floors and French doors.
Donna Conroy 510.339.4700Marina Bay \$550,000
3 BR 2.5 BA New paint,
cathedral ceilings & frpl.
Gated comm. w/pool.
Approx. 2,000 sqft +2 car
garage w/interior access.
Next to Bay/Marina.
Gregg Lustig 510.486.1495Maxwell Park \$425,000
3 BR 1 BA Cute home
w/spacious layout, formal
dining rm., extra living
rm., & breakfast nook in
kitchen. HWF, FP, nice
front & back yard area.
Reva Tolbert 510.339.4700Richmond \$285,000
2 BR 1 BA Nice & neat
Duplex. Two 2 bedroom, 1
bath units with spacious
carport, fenced backyard,
easy access to public
transportation and Hwy.
Reva Tolbert 510.339.4700

OPEN HOMES

Millmont \$389,950
2944 57th Ave. Sun 2-4:30
2 BR 1 BA Cute cozy
corner filled w/cheer.
Formal dining & breakfast
nook, fireplace, nice
hardwood floor, attached
garage & carport.
Monica Zuck 510.339.4700Berkeley \$1,750,000
2245 Glen Ave.
Sun 2:00-4:30
4 BR 3 BA Redone from
the foundation up.
Craftsman ambiance, huge
rear yard, min to Gourmet
Ghetto.
Adele Wong 510.339.4700Berkeley \$399,000
1404 Henry Street 4
Sun 12:30 - 2:30
Lovely Victorian 2+BR/1BA
upper condo, light, hwd
flrs. & upgraded kitchen.
N. Berkeley.
Carol Gamble 510.486.1495

OPEN HOMES

Montclair \$399,000
2 Cortez Ct. Sun 2 - 4:30
2 BR 1 BA Cute &
affordable 1960s ranch.
Newer bath, roof, hwd &
tile floors, windows &
deck. Freshly painted
interior. Room to expand.
Carolyn Devol 510.339-4700Oakland \$2,350,000
20 Stephens Way
Sun 2 - 4:30
4+BR 3.5BA Gorgeous! New
construction, contemporary
design. Fabulous Bay views,
large lot.
Joan/Ellen 510.339.47001628 Grand View Dr.
Sun 2 - 4:30
5+ BR 5 BA Mediterranean
w/Golden Gate & SF
views. Gourmet kitchen
famrm, formal dining.
Preston Grant 510.339.4700

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

OPEN HOMES

Oakland \$995,000
6000 Buena Vista Ave.
Sun 1
3 BR 2.5 BA Unique 1990s
custom built Mediterranean
flair. Hi ceiling LR, FDR.
Bay view.
Ruby Ng/Jeffrey Neidelman
510.339.4700Oakland Hills \$699,000
20 Kingwood Sun 2 - 4:30
New Listing! 3+ BR, 2.5
BA. Level in design, Bay
views, Formal LR & DR
updated kitchen.
David Eckert 510.339-4700Laurel \$408,000
4121 Laurel Ave. Sun 1
2 BR 1 BA Bay views,
country kitchen w/eat-in
area, WF, FP, home office
converted garage. Too
cute!
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OPEN SUN 2/1 1-5PM



6911 Pinehaven

\$659,000

Serene canyon views embrace this 3 bedroom, 2.5 bathroom contemporary home. A formal dining area and light-filled living room boast soaring beamed ceilings and a wood burning fireplace bordered in Spanish tile. There is beautiful wood cabinetry in the updated eat-in kitchen. The entryway and kitchen are framed by Anderson French doors opening onto a large front deck ideal for entertaining. Attention to detail abounds in this elegant Montclair retreat. Open Sunday, January 25th from 1-5pm and Sunday, February 1st from 1-5pm. Also shown by appointment. For more information call listing agent -

Andrea Gordon Sprague Realtor®
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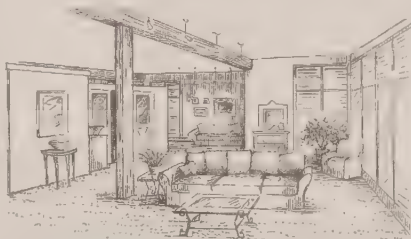
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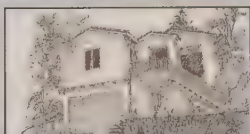


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FEATURED HOMES



Sunday 1-5 \$899,000
6201 Manzanita, Oakland. Dramatic contemporary, 4BR/3BA, great views and more.
Candice (510) 428-0900



Berkeley Hills Med \$549,000
2BR/2BA, hardwood floors, formal dining room, garden and peek of San Francisco.
Candice (510) 868-1481 (510) 868-1400



OPEN Sunday 1-4 \$549,000 ea.
1543 and 1545 Prince, Berkeley, 5BR/3.5BA homes. Brand new construction.
Laura Margulius (510) 868-1442 (510) 868-1400



OPEN Sunday 1-4 \$345,000
3924 Bayo Street, Oakland. Treasure in Laurel. 2BR/1BA, garage, backyard, basement.
Sung Miller (510) 834-2010



OPEN Sunday 1-4 \$300,000
1424 Navellier, El Cerrito. 2 BR/2BA, probate sale, sweet fixer, park setting.
Candice (510) 868-1481 (510) 868-1400

Oakland/Piedmont
Remodel! \$995,000
Stunning 4-BR/4BA Mediterranean in lovely private setting!
David Converse (510) 339-9290

Oakland/Piedmont
Rose Garden Condo \$266,000
2BR/1BA, well kept, lovely area, pool and sauna, close to transportation and Lake. Egidina Bullini (510) 527-9800

Grand Hills \$559,000
Exclusive 2BR/2BA hide-away with panoramic Bay view!
Michelle Moran (510) 339-9290

Berkeley/Albany
OPEN Sunday 2-4 \$610,000
2728 Wallace Street 4BR/2BA, spacious, duplex possibility. Easy to shopping, transportation, U.C. Good condition.
Cynthia (510) 868-1549 (510) 868-1400

Sunday 1-3:30 \$479,500
Carmel Street. Sunny 2BR/1BA large bonus room and bath, hardwood floors.
Michelle Lynch (510) 834-2010

Coming Soon in Albany! \$489,000
Close to Solano Ave 2BR/2BA. 5,000 sq ft lot Ready for Valentine's Day
Kathleen Crandall (510) 868-1480

Sunday 1-4 \$429,000
4 Links Road. 3BR/1.5BA, hardwood floors, fireplace, garage.
David Burgess (510) 834-2010

Contra Costa
Paradise in Kensington \$1,900,000
Private, gated home on 3.4 acres. Panoramic, pristine views.
Lillie Braudy (510) 868-1482 (510) 644-5262

Sunday 2-4:30 \$338,000
1044th Avenue-Great 3BR/1BA starter home 1st on market in 40 years.
Michelle Wong (510) 339-9290

OPEN Sunday 12-4 \$437,000
1245 Canterbury, Hercules Chamer, must see! 3BR/2.5BA.
Julie Case (510) 527-9800

Open-Condition! \$269,500
2BR/1BA starter Bungalow on quiet street in Elmhurst.
Michelle Furtner (510) 339-9290

OPEN Sunday 1-4 \$350,000
107 Stone Pine Lane, San Ramon. Super 2BR/2BA unit, one attached garage.
Lillian Liao (510) 337-8670

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San Leandro **Residential Income**
OPEN Sunday 1-4 \$395,000
163 California, San Leandro. Starter home in a quiet neighborhood.
Karina Bredikhina (510) 868-1558

OPEN Sunday 2-4:30 \$1,595,000
7051 Broadway Terrace, Oakland. Grand 4BR/3.5BA craftsman with all amenities!
Millie Lombardi (510) 339-9290

OPEN Sunday 2-4:30 \$1,175,000
6357 Brookside, Oakland. Mark Becker Mediterranean. 3BR/2BA with detached suite.
Heidi Marchesotti (510) 339-9290

Residential Income
Sunday 2-4 \$399,000
1407 11th Avenue, Oakland. New Chinatown duplex. 2 story. 2BR/1BA 1st open.
Camille Rogers (510) 845-0211

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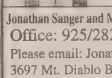
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- ### AMERICAN CANYON

33 Parkside
New Selling From the high \$500,000s. MODELS FOR SALE! Designed with the first-time buyer and move-up buyer in mind. 1,970 to 2,086 sq. ft. 4 bed, 2 1/2 ba, granite/silestone counters, maple cabinets and 1 garage are standard with homesites averaging 3,200 sq. ft. Open daily from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Take Hwy 80, east Monument Blvd. East Parkside is located 1/2 mile down Monument Blvd. on the left. 925-969-9977. www.youngjohnhomedesign.com

34 Crystall Ranch
Priced from the low \$700,000s. Master Planned community Legacy Homes presents luxury homes and extraordinary designs at The Masters Collection. Master planned community with public golf course, residents only tennis/basketball courts, 2 pools, 100+ acres of open space, 10+ miles of trails, One and two-story plans. Numerous room options. Arcadia Homes, Inc. 707-434-0811. www.arcadiahomes.com

35 Eagle's View II
New Custom Quality Homes. GRAND OPENING! Open Sat. & Sun. 10:30-4:00. Scenic court, fabulous views, huge lots, large 3-car garages. Plan 1, 3,139 sq. ft. for only \$789,900! Plan 2, 2,792 sq. ft. for only \$749,900! Lot size from 13,000 to 20,000 sq. ft. Directions: From I-580, take Exit 10, between Covell and Oak Grove, turn right on Parkside Road at 800-217-1556 or 100 or parklancomes.com

36 Vintage Place
From the high \$500,000s. Coming Soon! Eighteen elegant family homes, close to location. 3 to 5 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, from \$330 to \$400 sq. ft. At 1556 Bailey Road near Clayton Rd. Broker open. For information contact Lanix Homes at 254-0841 or lanixhomes.net
- ### CONCORD

37 The Oaks at Creekside
From the low \$400,000s. Great value in Concord! Spacious 4 bedroom homes ranging from 2,000 to 2,200 sq. ft. By The O'Brien Group. Located in an established, upscale neighborhood, these homes offer the exceptional comfort and amenities that are hallmarks of The O'Brien Group. Convenient access to major commuter thoroughfares, recreational facilities, San Francisco State and the East Bay. For more info, visit www.oakscreekside.com or call 707-935-0365

38 Lakeshore
Discovery Bay's Premier Great New Home Community starting from the \$500,000s. The Grand Harvest Court. Open daily from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 1556 Bailey Road near Clayton Rd. Broker open. For information contact Lanix Homes at 254-0841 or lanixhomes.net

39 Dublins
Turnberry at Dublin Ranch Golf Club. From the mid \$300,000s. Now Selling! Situated on 62 landscaped acres in Dublin, these 4,400 to 5,000 sq. ft. homes feature 5, 6 or 7 bedrooms, 3-car garages, scenic views, lush landscaping that provide direct street access. Fabulous master suites, extra-large kitchens, spacious rooms and oversized family rooms. Take I-580 to the Dublin Road exit. Open daily 10:30-4:00. www.dublinranchgolfclub.com

40 Pinnacle at Dublin Ranch Golf Club
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41 Inverness at Dublin Ranch Golf Club
Priced from the low \$700,000s. Now Selling! Four extraordinary homes ranging from 4,200 to 5,000 sq. ft. 4 to 6 bedrooms, and 3.5 to 7 baths. Spacious family rooms, kitchens with large breakfast areas. Take I-580 to the Dublin Road exit, turn left and proceed 1/4 mile to the sales office just north of the highway. Open daily 10:30-4:00. www.dublinranchgolfclub.com

42 Dublin Ranch Villages - The Villas
Priced from the upper \$300,000s. One of four villages located in the unique townhome and condominium community. Includes 2 proposed luxury neighborhood plans & a village center. From 1,240 to 1,540 sq. ft. 4 & 5 bedroom plans to select from 4 and 4 model homes to view. Take I-580 to the Dublin Road exit, turn left and follow signs. Open daily 10:30-4:00. 925-479-9511. www.dublinranchgolfclub.com

43 Dublin Ranch Villages - The Terraces
Priced from the mid \$300,000s. MODELS OPENING SOON! One of four villages located in this unique townhome and condominium community. Includes 2 proposed luxury neighborhood plans & a village center. From 1,240 to 1,540 sq. ft. 4 & 5 bedroom plans to select from 4 and 4 model homes to view. Take I-580 to the Dublin Road exit, turn left and follow signs. Open daily 10:30-4:00. 925-479-9511. www.dublinranchgolfclub.com

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45 Dublin Ranch Villages - The Cottages
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From the low \$700,000s. Models are Now Open! Floor plans feature state-of-the-art kitchens and fabulous entertainment spaces highlight these exquisite residences. 4 to 5 bedrooms with master suites and up to 4 baths complement our 3,122 sq. ft. floor plans. Take Hwy 580 to the Dublin Road exit, turn left and follow signs to Rainsong. Open daily 10:30-4:00. 925-479-9511. www.dublinranchgolfclub.com
- ### EL DORADO HILLS

48 Sierra Vista at Serrano
Priced from the mid \$300,000s. Spectacular gated community featuring elegant homes and shopping. 1,500 to 2,000 sq. ft. 3 to 4 bedrooms. 925-934-3497. Pacific Mountain Partners

49 EL SOBRANTE
Applian Village. New open from the low \$400,000s. Great location 22 single units. 1,200 to 1,500 sq. ft. 2 to 3 bedrooms. 925-479-9511. www.dublinranchgolfclub.com

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From the high \$500,000s. Final Phase! Luxury single family homes conveniently located in the hills of El Sobrante. 3 distinctive plans offering 3-5 BR, approx. 2,100-2,774 sq. ft. Cordian kitchen, granite counters, spacious master suites and more! 180 to 180 or San Pablo Dam Rd. to Hillcrest Rd. Open daily 10:30-4:00. 925-479-9511. www.dublinranchgolfclub.com

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- ### FAIRFIELD

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From the low \$400,000s. Ventana offers total livability without open floorplans ranging from 2,100 to 2,644 sq. ft. up to 5 bedrooms. Each home features gourmet kitchen, great fireplace, sunroom, master suites, entertainment nooks and more! 1-15 Tues-Sun, 1-5 Mon. 707-864-8470. www.citationhomes.com

54 The Masters Collection at Paradise Valley
From the low \$400,000s. Beautiful golf course views and extraordinary designs at The Masters Collection. Master planned community with public golf course, residents only tennis/basketball courts, 2 pools, 100+ acres of open space, 10+ miles of trails, One and two-story plans. Numerous room options. Arcadia Homes, Inc. 707-434-0811. www.arcadiahomes.com

55 Enclave
Coming March 2004. From the mid \$300,000s. US-50, exit #23, left on Park Blvd, right on Blue Haven Rd, left on Sibley St, right on Glen Dr. 888-474-0843. www.rlynd.com

56 Studio Walk
From the low \$400,000s. Now Selling. Hayward live/work residences. 1,596 sq. ft. to 1,700 sq. ft. up to 3 bedrooms. 888-244-6558. rlynd.com. 1880 East Winton Ave. East D. San Antonio St. Open Fri-Mon 12-5.

57 Coming Soon! Baywood in Hercules
Delightful new community in Hercules-style homes in a master-planned setting in a historic waterfront district where you can watch the sun set over San Pablo Bay. 3-4 bedrooms. 1,489 to 1,799 sq. ft. Whimsical front porches & 3-bay detached garages. Close to shopping centers, schools and public transportation. Register for VIP list for info on lot releases & prices at www.VestBaywood.com. Taylor Woodrow Homes

58 Victoria By The Bay
From the upper \$400,000s. Master planned community nestled alongside San Pablo Bay, offers stunning views and an exciting array of 3 to 5 bedroom homes from the mid \$400,000s to the low \$500,000s. Convenient to shopping and easy access to Hwy 80 and 94. These homes offer luxurious state-of-the-art amenities. Models open daily. www.victoriabythebay.com

59 Vineyard Gate
From the low \$500,000s. Models Now Open! 4-6 BR. 3,500 to 4,000 sq. ft. up to 4,000 sq. ft. in the heart of the S. Livermore valley, close to golf, wineries, community. Open 10-5 daily. 925-455-8800. Visit www.vineyardgate.com to register for the interest list and receive private info. Pacific Union Homes 1-800-376-2244

60 Alden Lane
From the mid \$700,000s. Standard Pacific offers 5 elegant floor plans ranging from approx. 2,661 to 4,099 sq. ft. These single and two-story homes with four and five bedrooms feature 3 to 5 bedrooms, 3.5 to 4.5 baths, 3-car garages, scenic views, lush landscaping that provide direct street access. Fabulous master suites, extra-large kitchens, spacious rooms and oversized family rooms. Take I-580 to the Dublin Road exit. Open daily 10:30-4:00. www.dublinranchgolfclub.com

61 Cooperage
From the low \$500,000s. Now Open! Luxurious single family homes in a wine country setting. 2,800 to 3,500 sq. ft. 3-5 BR. 2,800 to 3,500 sq. ft. Options for dens, lofts, retreats & more. Signature Properties 925-373-4788

62 Ponderosa Legacy
From the high \$300,000s. Models Now Open! Executive homes located near World Golf Course. 4-5 bedrooms, 3.5 to 4.5 bathrooms approx. 3,435 to 4,435 sq. ft. Open Thurs-Sun, 11-5 & Mon 2-5. www.ponderosahomes.com. 580 to Portola exit on N. T. Lanes into Arroyo Rd, left on Hansen Rd. 925-361-0200. www.ponderosahomes.com. Mon 12-30 Tues 11-5

63 Vinsanto
Grand Opening. From the \$700,000s. Handcrafted luxury homes featuring "open and country" living. 3-4 & 5 bdrm designs from 2,740 to 3,750 sq. ft. w/ flexible options and custom amenities. Welcoming porches, gourmet kitchens, pre-wired computer centers, and separate 1/2 car live/work quarters offer refined elegance. Models open daily 10-6. Concession Blvd. to San Vicente. 925-245-0943. Pinotinos.com

64 Cresta Bianca Estates
From the mid \$700,000s. Now selling! Distinctive single-family homes in the S. Livermore Valley. 3-4 bedrooms, 3.5 to 4.5 bathrooms, 3,400 to 4,000 sq. ft. Open daily 10:30-4:00. 925-479-9511. www.dublinranchgolfclub.com

65 Los Olivos
From the \$800,000s. Estate residences among the vineyards in the South Livermore Valley. Approx. 3,073 to 4,365 sq. ft. 3 to 5 bedrooms, 3.5 to 4.5 bathrooms, 3,400 to 4,000 sq. ft. Single level and two-story homes. 3 to 4 car garages. 3 to 5 bedrooms. Priced in the \$800,000s. Contact Homes 925-294-9787. www.vestlives.com

66 Lindenwood
From the low \$700,000s. Fastest Selling Luxury Homes in South Livermore! Fabulous master suites, extra large kitchens and oversized family rooms highlight these magnificent residences located near Mt. Diablo and neighboring vineyards. 4 to 5 bedrooms and up to 4 1/2 baths with floor plans up to 3,549 sq. ft. are now available. Open daily from 10:30-4:00. 925-479-9511. www.greentransithomes.com

67 Vineyard Terrace
From the high \$200,000s. Discover a wine country lifestyle at an affordable price. This collection of luxury, low maintenance studio to 3 BR, townhome-style condominiums with floor plans designed for active lifestyles from approx. 1,514 to 2,144 sq. ft. 1 to 3 bedrooms, 1 to 2 bathrooms, recreation, shopping and wineries. 925-666-5000. www.wpih.com. Western Pacific Housing

68 Modesto
From the mid \$200,000s. Now selling! Modesto Collection in Modesto and Clarendon Meadows in Turlock offer 3-4 bedrooms in a premier neighborhood, up to 1,487 sq. ft. Pre-wired with the latest high-tech features. Visit www.clarendonhomes.com. Pacific Union Homes 800-376-2244

69 NAPA
Scenic Place. From the mid \$500,000s. 11 semi-custom homes nestled in beautiful Browns Valley. Luxurious single and two-story designs. 3-5 BR, approx. 2,051 to 3,553 sq. ft. Gary Bach, 925-479-9511. www.dublinranchgolfclub.com

70 Pear Tree Lane
From the \$500,000s. Models Now Open! Charming, easy-living attached Cottages & Craftsman-style homes that live like single-family homes. 3 or 4 BR, 1,701 to 2,299 sq. ft. Convenient central location close to shopping in famed wine country locale. Register for the interest list today at www.PearTreeLane.com. Open daily 10-5, Mon 1-5. 707-257-9882. ChristopherHomes.com

71 Windemere
From the \$400,000s to the \$500,000s. Family-oriented, master-planned community with 10 neighborhoods to choose from. Outstanding amenities include more than 1,150 acres of open space, trails, parks, excellent schools, library & more! Close to freeways, employers & BART. To get information call 925-556-6000 or visit the website at www.windemere.com
- ### CONCORD

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39 Dublins
Turnberry at Dublin Ranch Golf Club. From the mid \$300,000s. Now Selling! Situated on 62 landscaped acres in Dublin, these 4,400 to 5,000 sq. ft. homes feature 5, 6 or 7 bedrooms, 3-car garages, scenic views, lush landscaping that provide direct street access. Fabulous master suites, extra-large kitchens, spacious rooms and oversized family rooms. Take I-580 to the Dublin Road exit. Open daily 10:30-4:00. www.dublinranchgolfclub.com

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42 Dublin Ranch Villages - The Villas
Priced from the upper \$300,000s. One of four villages located in the unique townhome and condominium community. Includes 2 proposed luxury neighborhood plans & a village center. From 1,240 to 1,540 sq. ft. 4 & 5 bedroom plans to select from 4 and 4 model homes to view. Take I-580 to the Dublin Road exit, turn left and follow signs. Open daily 10:30-4:00. 925-479-9511. www.dublinranchgolfclub.com

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Applian Village. New open from the low \$400,000s. Great location 22 single units. 1,200 to 1,500 sq. ft. 2 to 3 bedrooms. 925-479-9511. www.dublinranchgolfclub.com

50 Hillcrest Heights
From the high \$500,000s. Final Phase! Luxury single family homes conveniently located in the hills of El Sobrante. 3 distinctive plans offering 3-5 BR, approx. 2,100-2,774 sq. ft. Cordian kitchen, granite counters, spacious master suites and more! 180 to 180 or San Pablo Dam Rd. to Hillcrest Rd. Open daily 10:30-4:00. 925-479-9511. www.dublinranchgolfclub.com

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From the upper \$400,000s. Master planned community nestled alongside San Pablo Bay, offers stunning views and an exciting array of 3 to 5 bedroom homes from the mid \$400,000s to the low \$500,000s. Convenient to shopping and easy access to Hwy 80 and 94. These homes offer luxurious state-of-the-art amenities. Models open daily. www.victoriabythebay.com

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From the low \$500,000s. Models Now Open! 4-6 BR. 3,500 to 4,000 sq. ft. up to 4,000 sq. ft. in the heart of the S. Livermore valley, close to golf, wineries, community. Open 10-5 daily. 925-455-8800. Visit www.vineyardgate.com to register for the interest list and receive private info. Pacific Union Homes 1-800-376-2244

60 Alden Lane
From the mid \$700,000s. Standard Pacific offers 5 elegant floor plans ranging from approx. 2,661 to 4,099 sq. ft. These single and two-story homes with four and five bedrooms feature 3 to 5 bedrooms, 3.5 to 4.5 baths, 3-car garages, scenic views, lush landscaping that provide direct street access. Fabulous master suites, extra-large kitchens, spacious rooms and oversized family rooms. Take I-580 to the Dublin Road exit. Open daily 10:30-4:00. www.dublinranchgolfclub.com

61 Cooperage
From the low \$500,000s. Now Open! Luxurious single family homes in a wine country setting. 2,800 to 3,500 sq. ft. 3-5 BR. 2,800 to 3,500 sq. ft. Options for dens, lofts, retreats & more. Signature Properties 925-373-4788

62 Ponderosa Legacy
From the high \$300,000s. Models Now Open! Executive homes located near World Golf Course. 4-5 bedrooms, 3.5 to 4.5 bathrooms approx. 3,435 to 4,435 sq. ft. Open Thurs-Sun, 11-5 & Mon 2-5. www.ponderosahomes.com. 580 to Portola exit on N. T. Lanes into Arroyo Rd, left on Hansen Rd. 925-361-0200. www.ponderosahomes.com. Mon 12-30 Tues 11-5

63 Vinsanto
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OAKLAND \$750,000
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OAKLAND \$575,000
6416 Heather Ridge
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OAKLAND \$395,000
3757 Fruitvale Avenue
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SPORTS

• Friday, January 30, 2004 •

Section C

Berkeley evens score with Richmond

Yellow Jackets use a new offensive alignment to even an earlier loss and over first place in the AL.

By Curtis Pashelka
STAFF WRITER
Berkeley High School soccer team saved one of its best performances of the season exactly the right time.

BOYS SOCCER

After a defense they began to cement over the Christmas break, the host Yellow Jackets evened the Richmond offense and away with a 3-1 Alameda Costa Athletic League win on Friday.

AL NOTEBOOK

Coach's value shown in absence

By Orlando Molina
STAFF WRITER

HERE ARE A lot of reasons why a team goes into a midseason funk, but marriage is not one of the common ones. After a blistering 5-0 start, defending Bay Shore Athletic League champion Berkeley High School boys soccer team found itself floundering after the Christmas break. The Eagles lost their first three games and scored just two in that span. And coach Miszti thinks one of the big reasons for the skid was because of the departure to Hungary to his new wife, Melinda.

According to Miszti, the two moved last August in Europe, but because of immigration laws, Melinda was unable to come to the United States. The snafu forced John Miszti to leave his players without an enforcer, prompting them to practice.

They promised they'd keep practicing, but they didn't," he said. Miszti also didn't discount the fact that the holiday season rains and a lack of coaching also played a

When play resumed, the Eagles were anything but high on the pitch, losing to St. Mary's (4-2), Berean Christian and Albany (4-0).

After their skid, the Eagles turned their fortunes around, taking four in a row to the week.

"I dropped games we didn't have," Miszti said. "We're playing with more energy now."

HIGHLANDERS FEELING
It's gonna take a heck of a lot of energy for the Piedmont basketball team to shake the bitter taste of a 66-65 loss to Kennedy on Jan.

During the contest the Highlanders were force-fed heaping helpings of Kennedy's Josh Smith as he put down 35 points with six 3-pointers. After everything he shot went in, coach Chris Davis said, "Nobody has ever anywhere near that before, until now."

Not only enough, however, that was the hardest part of the blow.

Highlanders overcame a 16-33 first-quarter deficit to 40-33 at the break. The team went down to the wire and had the last shot in 32 seconds left in regulation.

According to Lavdiosis, the Nelson inbounded the ball. Eric Flato. He then led coast-to-coast through the defense. His attempted layup line. His attempted layup rolled off the rim and exploded.

"I got what we wanted, with the ball," Lavdiosis said. "It wasn't easy, but if you give him, he makes that shot."

Organized, efficient Cougars roll to 3-0 win over Monarchs

By Mike McGreehan
STAFF WRITER

OAKLAND — Holy Names High School has an improved soccer team this season. The girls of Albany High are better organized and have skill at every position.

The difference between the two teams was very apparent last Friday, as the Cougars scored twice within the first 15 minutes en route to a 3-0 Bay Shore Athletic League win at Skyline High, Holy Names' home field.

The win improved the Cougars to 6-5 overall and 6-4 in the BSAL. Albany, though, is a work in progress.

"We don't have that many club players — players on outside club teams," Cougars coach I.Z. Daland said, "and it takes us a

See ALBANY, Page 2

for first place in the ACCAL standings. The Yellow Jackets (20-4, 9-1 ACCAL) have four games remaining, and the Oilers (13-2-2, 8-1) have five.

Should both teams finish with

13-1 records, ACCAL commissioner Bill Jones said they would have a one-game playoff before the Feb. 15 North Coast Section seeding meeting to determine which team earns the league's

automatic NCS playoff berth. The site would be determined at a later date.

In the teams' last meeting Dec. 16, Richmond scored three goals in the first half and coasted to a 3-1 win. But Berkeley turned the tables this time, scoring twice in the first half before rounding out the scoring in the 78th minute.

"We were more focused this time," said Yellow Jackets senior Victor Mendoza, who had a goal and an assist in the win. "We treated this game like it was an NCS game. We changed some things with our defense and it worked out for us."

Edgar Hernandez and Mendoza scored unassisted goals in the first half. Hernandez one-timed a bouncing ball past Richmond goalkeeper Alejandro Mercado from 20 yards out in the

See BERKELEY, Page 2



BERKELEY GOALKEEPER Peter Catala grabs the ball in between Jorge Rodriguez, left, and Arturo Parra of Richmond.

PREP GIRLS BASKETBALL



CHAZNY MORRIS, left, of El Cerrito and Ursuline's Ashley Kirk scramble for the ball. The Gauchos lost the Acalanes Shootout game.

Weary St. Mary's falls to Tech

By Darcy Couch
STAFF WRITER

One game against the powerful Oakland Tech High School girls basketball team is enough to wear out any team. Play three games just as intense before even taking the court against the Bulldogs, and a somewhat depleted energy level may be understandable.

It's not an excuse. But it does explain a few things about St. Mary's 62-59 loss to Oakland Tech on Saturday in the Acalanes Shootout in Lafayette.

The Panthers (9-5) were running all over the Bulldogs (11-6) in the first quarter of play. Things got a little tighter in the second. And by the end of the third quarter, the game was locked up a 40-40 entering the fourth quarter — the fourth fourth-quarter in six days for St. Mary's.

Still, the Panthers managed to put up 19 points against Oakland Tech in that final period. But there was no accounting for the Bulldogs' dominating center Devanai Hampton.

Hampton finished with a game-high 22 points, 10 of which came in the fourth quarter. St. Mary's sophomore center Court-

ney Dunn ended up leading the Panthers with 14 points, staying flawless through six of her free throws and knocking in a basket each quarter. The Panthers needed her production as well as her presence in the key against Hampton.

"(Dunn) played Devanai toe-to-toe," St. Mary's co-coach Sean Dulan said. "She's pretty much done what we asked her to do. I'm extremely proud of the way we played and showed everybody that we're a good team."

Dunn has had a tough week. She had to match up with Carondelet's Jayne Appel and Piedmont's Courtney Paris to begin the week before the Panthers faced Albany on Friday.

"We just ran out of gas in the end," Dulan said. "Devanai is just really special. But when it came to the end, their role players made shots we didn't think they'd make. I think that if we had had fresh legs we'd be all right."

Alexis Gray-Lawson added 13 to Hampton's 22-point effort to account for over half of Oakland Tech's scoring. The Panthers put four players in double figures. Dunn led the way, Shantrell Sneed added 13, and Christina Johnson

and Nicole Thompson each had 10.

Foul trouble forced the Panthers to ease up on the pressure defense that helped them grab an 18-13 lead in the first quarter, and allowed Oakland Tech to work its way closer. The Bulldogs also got tougher on the boards and got more second chances as the game went on.

"They got way too many offensive boards. I feel that's the difference," St. Mary's forward Sneed said.

St. Mary's-Stockton 70, Berkeley 61: Jacki Gemelos took a breather for a bit in the third quarter. Soon after she stepped back on the floor, however, Berkeley's six-point deficit was back to 10. And getting deeper.

With St. Mary's leading 42-36 midway through the third quarter, Gemelos subbed in, stuffed a Yellow Jackets shot and ended up scoring at the other end to make it 44-36. One Berkeley free throw later, and Gemelos drove into the key and popped the ball out to Renee Roberts, who nailed the 3-pointer for a 44-37 lead.

Still, Berkeley didn't back down. Gemelos' 28-point performance was countered by the Yellow Jackets' furious comeback.

Berkeley came within 62-61 when Brittany Moore hit her fourth straight free throw in the fourth quarter. Andrea Keys had also nailed four in a row earlier in the run to close in on St. Mary's, but Moore's final free throw was the last of the Yellow Jackets scoring. Danesha Wright's late 3-point attempt rattled in and out of the hoop, holding Berkeley just out reach.

Ursuline-Santa Rosa 61, El Cerrito 47: The Gauchos (13-4) staged a comeback in the third quarter, but their bid for the upset fell short. El Cerrito trailed the Bears 34-22 at the half but managed to trim the deficit to 39-35 on a three-point play by Marqueta Green with 3:28 left in the third. Green finished with 11 points.

Ursuline started to drain its outside shots to extend the Gauchos' defense. The team pushed its lead to 50-37 after senior guard Margaret Curzon nailed a 3-pointer early in the fourth quarter. Curzon finished with 10 points. Junior forward Melissa Azevedo led all scorers with 19 points.

Staff writer Jennifer Starks contributed to this roundup.

ACCAL NOTEBOOK

Richmond continues to improve

By Phil Jensen
STAFF WRITER

THE RICHMOND HIGH School boys basketball produced an impressive upset last Friday with an 82-69 victory over Pinole Valley.

The win was even more impressive considering coach Rob Collins had to leave the game at halftime for family reasons.

Assistant coach Pat Smith took over the reins in the second half.

"I went in knowing we had a shot at winning. We just kept playing hard the whole way through," Smith said.

Smith said he had been a varsity coach once before in a game in the 2001-2002 season for Richmond.

He said he coached a freshman, junior varsity and varsity game that day for the Oilers.

In Friday's game, the Oilers broke open a close game in the fourth quarter with a 35-19 advantage in the frame.

"We were playing man-to-man defense and were forcing them to take hard shots. Because of that, we were able to get easier looks at the basket," Smith said.

"They just showed the character that they had," said Collins, in his second year at Richmond.

"They were buying into what we do. They knew they had to play hard against Pinole."

There were many heroes for Richmond in the fourth-quarter charge against Pinole Valley. Michael Paige Jr. connected on six free throws in a row late in the fourth quarter.

Fajri Waquia came off the bench in the fourth quarter to convert a big 3-pointer.

Leonard Neal also had a big 3-pointer in the fourth quarter, one of five in the game for Neal.

Richmond's guards also handled the press well.

"They started to press us in the fourth quarter, and I don't remember us turning the ball over once," Smith said.

Freshman sensation Wendell McKines paced Richmond with a game-high 31 points.

This season has been a remarkable turnaround for the Oilers, who entering this week had won more games already this season than they did in all of last season.

Richmond is now 8-9 overall and 2-3 in the Alameda Contra Costa Athletic League.

Last season, the Oilers were 7-19 overall and 3-11 in ACCAL action.

RECORD-BREAKER: Pinole Valley senior guard John Smith scored a game-high 47 points in Pinole Valley's 111-106 triple-overtime thriller over Hercules.

Smith's scoring mark is a single-game record for Pinole Valley's boys basketball team, according to coach Mark DeLuca.

ON DECK

Prep boys basketball

■ **El Cerrito at Pinole Valley**, 7 p.m. tonight — Both teams need a win to stay in the Alameda Contra Costa Athletic League tie hunt.

■ **Salesian vs. St. Mary's**, 7 p.m. Saturday at Contra Costa College — This rivalry game will be a big one in the BSAL, as St. Mary's entered the week undefeated in league play with Salesian one game back.

Prep girls basketball

■ **Pinole Valley at El Cerrito**, 7 p.m. tonight — A showdown between two teams that were undefeated in ACCAL play entering this week.

■ **Berkeley at El Cerrito**, 4 p.m. Tuesday — The Gauchos continue a tough stretch of games by hosting the eight-time defending North Coast Section Division I champions.

Prep boys soccer

■ **St. Mary's at Albany**, 3:30 p.m. Monday — A Panthers win could propel the team near the league-leading Cougars.

Prep girls soccer

■ **Berkeley at Piedmont**, 11 a.m. Saturday — A battle between two defending league champions, the Yellow Jackets (ACCAL) and Highlanders (BSAL). Piedmont also won the NCS 2A title last year.

Stars of the week

■ **Dior Lowhorn**, Berkeley boys basketball — Lowhorn had an impressive week, as he scored a game-high 23 points in the Yellow Jackets' 52-49 win over Bishop O'Dowd, produced a game-high 30 points in Berkeley's 78-38 win over Alameda and a game-high 27 points in the Yellow Jackets' 99-46 victory over Encinal.

■ **Nicole Thompson**, St. Mary's girls basketball — Thompson had double-figure scoring in four games last week. She started with a team-high 16 points in St. Mary's 62-55 win over highly-regarded Carondelet, then had a team-high 14 points, five assists and three rebounds in the Panthers' narrow 47-43 loss to Piedmont. She finished the week with 14 points in a 62-26 win over Albany and 10 points in a 62-59 loss to Oakland Tech.

■ **Andrea Keys**, Berkeley girls basketball — Keys had 10 points in Berkeley's 63-46 win over Encinal, then a team-high 18 points in the Yellow Jackets' 70-61 loss to St. Mary's-Stockton.

■ **Emma Kemp**, Albany girls soccer — Kemp produced two goals in the Cougars' 3-0 win over Holy Names.

■ **Fred Mayfield**, El Cerrito boys basketball — Mayfield had 21 points in both a 90-47 Gauchos win over Encinal and El Cerrito's 66-63 victory over Alameda.

SCOREBOARD

Basketball

BOYS

ACCL standings

	W	L	GB
Berkeley	6	0	—
El Cerrito	4	2	2
Pinole Valley	4	2	2
Hercules	3	3	2 1/2
Richmond	3	3	3
De Anza	2	4	4
Alameda	1	4	4 1/2
El Cerrito	0	6	6

Tuesday's results

Berkeley 75, Pinole Valley 45

Richmond 72, Encinitas 52

El Cerrito 67, De Anza 63

EL CERRITO (12-4, 4-2 ACCL)

Davis 3-4-9, Mitchell 0-3-18, Quinney 1-0-2, Leaks 0-1-11, James 2-2-6, Brown 1-2-4, Mayfield 3-1-6, Randle 2-3-7, Totals 23-14-19-67

DE ANZA (5-12, 2-4)

Parker 2-4-11, Wolfley 6-1-13, Neal 11-2-3, Urbanc 3-0-7, Foster 11-3-7, 25, Johnson 2-0-4, Totals 27-15-63

El Cerrito 17 15 23 — 67

De Anza 11 12 20 — 63

3-point goals: Mitchell 3, Leaks, Mayfield, Parker, Urbanc. Fouled out: Johnson.

Friday

Berkeley 99, Encinitas 46

ENCINITAS (5-13, 0-5 ACCL)

Moore 2-2-5, Mason 3-0-18, Larson 0-2-3, English 4-1-3, Pano 3-1-7, Teohle 3-2-4, Hayes 1-0-3, Totals 18-15-46

BERKELEY (14-3, 5-0)

Ramirez 2-1-6, Mitchell 1-1-3, Nassimuddin 3-0-6, Patterson 1-1-4, Tyler 1-0-18, Crowder 1-1-3, Kavay 2-0-6, Lowthorn 13-1-27, McDuffee 3-0-6, McWeeney 1-1-3, Maples 5-5-6, Totals 39-16-27-99

Encinitas 14 13 6 — 46

Berkeley 22 25 31 — 99

3-point goals: Mason 2, English 2, Teohle, Hayes, Kavay, 2, Parker, Ramirez, Maples. Fouled out: Moore, Moore. Technical foul: Crowder.

El Cerrito 66, Alameda 63

ALAMEDA (4-13, 1-3 ACCL)

Holder 0-1-2, Omphroy 5-5-14, Peterson 9-8-8, McInnis 0-1-2, Gilman 3-0-6, Green 1-0-2, Viverra 4-5-6, Totals 22-15-63

EL CERRITO (11-4, 3-2)

McInnis 1-0-2, Thompson 1-1-3, Danus Webb 1-0-2, Daniel Quinney 1-0-2, Kendrick Leaks 2-0-5, Katoen James 1-1-3, Millon Brown 1-5-7, Fred Mayfield 10-1-2, Steve Randle 4-0-8, Byron Davis 0-0-2, Totals 27-8-15-66

Alameda 18 15 12 — 63

El Cerrito 14 13 23 — 66

3-point goals: Omphroy 4, Mitchell 3, Leaks. Fouled out: Davis. Technical foul: Randle.

BSAL standings

	W	L	GB
St. Mary's	4	0	—
Kennedy	4	1	1 1/2
St. Joseph	4	1	1 1/2
Salesian	3	1	1
St. Patrick	3	2 1/2	2 1/2
Piedmont	2	3 1/2	3 1/2
Albany	1	4 3/4	4 3/4
St. Elizabeth	0	5 1/2	5 1/2
St. Joseph	0	5 1/2	5 1/2

Tuesday's results

Piedmont 79, John Swett 13

El Cerrito 50, St. Elizabeth 40

St. Joseph 64, Albany 46

ALBANY (6-13, 1-4 BSAL)

Jennings 2-0-4, Rath 1-0-2, Izumiaki 6-4-5, Hinch 3-4-5, Totals 10-13-46

St. Mary's (15-4, 4-0)

Thurston 2-2-2, Gurganus 5-6-12, McInnis 5-0-13, Wright 3-0-6, Green 4-2-4, White 1-0-2, Menzie 2-4-7, Rodriguez 0-0-0, Calagan 0-0-0, Other 0-0-0, Totals 23-12-24-64

Albany 10 8 14 — 46

St. Mary's 18 16 9 — 64

3-point goals: McInnis 3, Thurston 2, Highlights: St. — Thompson 10 assists, Green 10 rebounds, Gurganus 12 rebounds, 8 assists.

GIRLS

ACCL standings

	W	L	GB
Pinole Valley	5	0	—
El Cerrito	4	0	1/2
Alameda	2	2 1/2	2 1/2
Hercules	2	2 1/2	2 1/2
Encinitas	1	3 3/4	3 3/4
De Anza	1	4	4
Richmond	0	4 1/2	4 1/2

Tuesday's results

Alameda 44, Albany 40

HOLY NAMES (11-8, 4-2 BSAL)

Glaspy 3-0-16, Dawson 4-9-22, Jones 1-2-2-4, French 0-0-0, Archer 1-2-4, Magana 1-0-2, Estrada 0-0-0, Dymes 2-2-6, Totals 17-9-18-44

ALBANY (3-3 BSAL)

Nagura 3-1-13, Green 1-0-2, Goldman 4-0-2-11, Pickus 1-0-2, Johnson 3-2-8, Butler 1-0-2, Chin 2-0-6, Lau 0-0-0, Totals 15-7-40

Holy Names 9 7 21 — 44

Albany 11 7 16 — 40

3-point goals: Nagura 2, Goldman 3, Chin 2, Archer

Highlights: HN — Dawson 12 rebounds, Glaspy 10 rebounds.

St. Mary's 98, St. Elizabeth 47

ST. MARY'S (11-5, 4-1 BSAL)

Cristina Thomas 4-4-12, Erin Johnson 1-1-2, Natty Frapp 0-0-14, Crohn

Johnson 3-0-6, Ashlee Gaston 0-0-2, Shanell Sneed 9-4-26, Sonja Beam 3-0-16, Courtney Dunn 4-1-20, Marique Lewis 0-1-3, Nicole Thompson 8-4-21, Totals 38-15-22-98

ST. ELIZABETH (1-4 BSAL)

Wilson 2-0-4, Hugley 2-13-17, Austin 3-2-8, Brooks 5-2-2-13, Fassett 2-1-3-5, Totals 15-16-23-47

St. Mary's 32 31 27 — 98

St. Elizabeth 11 15 11 — 47

3-point goals: Sneed 3, Frapp 2, Dunn, Thompson, Brooks. Fouled out: Fassett.

Highlights: SM — Sneed 13 rebounds, Thomas 5 steals, Thompson 7 steals.

Acalanes Shootout

URSINE SANTA ROSA 61, EL CERRITO 47

URSINE

Margaret Curzon 3-2-4, Ashley Santos 0-0-0, Letitia Mills 2-0-4, Ashley Kirk 1-2-2, Heck Merita 1-2-5, Taylor Ford 5-0-12, Melissa Azevedo 7-5-19, Amanda Pouchot 3-3-6, Totals 22-14-29-61

EL CERRITO (13-4)

Mykela Emerson 1-0-2, Melissa Stallworth 4-0-1-9, Kavina Hall 1-2-3, Marqueta Green 4-3-5, Jordan McCormick 4-1-2-11, Chazny Morris 3-0-16, Turquoise 1-0-2, Shonetta Crain 0-0-0, Ashley Jackson 1-1-3, Totals 19-6-19-47

Ursuline 20 14 11 — 61

El Cerrito 12 10 15 — 47

3-point goals: Curzon 2, Kirk, Stallworth, McCormick 2

Oakland Tech 62, St. Mary's 59

OAKLAND TECH (11-6)

Devan Hampton 10-2-8, 22, Alexus Gary-Lawson 5-3-13, Bradleigh Miller 2-6, Jennine Jackson 3-0-9, Rhonda Parsons 1-0-2, Leah Manning 1-2-4, Bridget Barlow 2-0-4, Marreissa Lynch 1-0-2, James Harris 0-1-0, Totals 25-8-26-62

ST. MARY'S (9-5)

Christina Thomas 4-1-9, Natty Frapp 1-1-3, Christina Johnson 3-4-6, 10, Shanell Sneed 4-5-13, Courtney Dunn 1-0-2, Nicole Thompson 3-2-10, Totals 19-26-59

Oakland Tech 13 13 14 — 62

St. Mary's 18 10 12 — 59

3-point goals: Jackson 3, Miller

St. Mary's 18 10 12 — 59

St. Mary's 18 10 12 — 59

3-point goals: Jackson 3, Miller

St. Mary's 18 10 12 — 59

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3-point goals: Jackson 3, Miller

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St. Mary's 18 10 12 — 59

3-point goals: Jackson 3, Miller

St. Mary's 18 10 12 — 59

St. Mary's 18 10 12 — 59

Hercules 5, El Cerrito 4

Berkeley 3, Richmond 1

Hercules 5, El Cerrito 4

Hercules 2 3 — 5

El Cerrito 2 2 — 4

Scoring: Julian Gomez (H) assisted by John Chinn, 10-00, David Ball (EC) assisted by Kelly Griffin, 12-00, Godwin (H) assisted by Scott Jorgensen, 13-00, Ball (EC) assisted by Spencer Selak

MOVIES

Below are capsule reviews of movies playing at area theaters. Reviews are by F. Pols, Times; Robert W. Butler, Chris Hewitt, Steven Rea and Carrie Rickay, Knight Ridder Newspapers; Glenn Elgart, Bruce Newman, San Jose Mercury News; David Germain, Christy Lemire, Ben Nuckolls, Associated Press; Dave Kehr, Elvis Mitchell, A.O. Scott, New York Times; Jami Bernard, Jack Mathews, New York Daily News; Phoebe Flowins, South Florida Sun-Sentinel; Evan Henderson, Bob Strauss, Glenn Whipp, Los Angeles Daily News; Manohla Dargis, Kevin Thomas, Kenneth Turan, Los Angeles Times; Wendy Churmin, Chris Vognar, Philip Kunkin, Dallas Morning News; Jay Byar, Roger Moore, Orlando Sentinel; Ben Ballake, Sacramento Bee; Burr, Boston Globe; Ann Hornaday, Stephen Hunter, Desson Thomson, Washington Post.

"LONG CAME POLLY": Ben Stiller, once again, has a bad time in a bathroom while we watch, grossed out, laughing at his agony. He also gets dumped by his new wife (Debra Messing), who runs off with a scuba instructor during their honeymoon, but he finds new love with a flake named Polly (Jennifer Aniston). They're completely unsuited for each other, but the movie feels obligated to convince us of their romance. It flourishes in the attempt. Aniston is adorable as usual, but the material, supplied by writer/director John Hamburg, who co-authored the much better "Meet the Parents," isn't good enough for her. In contrast, Hamburg's crude bathroom humor seems like it's a match for Stiller's limitations. — M. Pols. (PG-13: sexual content, language, crude humor and some drug references.) 1 hour, 30 minutes. C+

"BAD SANTA": A very dark comedy from San Francisco director Terry Zwigoff about an alcoholic department-store Santa (Billy Bob Thornton) who is his helper (Tony Cox) who use the holiday season to rob stores and take a forlorn boy helps soften Santa's heart a little. But we're not talking "Elf" here — this is definitely not a movie for everyone. The humor is crass and loaded with obscenities; most moviegoers will likely be offended. Those with less delicate sensibilities will chuckle throughout. The humor is somewhat myopic, though, most restrained by the urge to be crude. With Bernie Mac and the late John Ritter. — M. Pols. (R: pervasive language, strong sexual content and some violence.) 1 hour, 33 minutes.

"THE BARBARIAN INVASIONS": This ruffian comic drama about attempting to make sense of one's life has writer-director Denys Arcand's trademark biting wit. Much of the film's energy comes from Remy (Remy Girard), a sybaritic professor of history now dying of an unnamed disease in a hellishly overcrowded Montreal hospital. Remy rails against an ex-wife; he seethes about humanity; but most of all, he is at his wit's end about his son Sebastian (Stephane Rousseau). This Cannes prize-winner is the sequel to Arcand's "The Decline of the American Empire." — K. Turan. (R: language, sexual dialogue and drug content.) 1 hour, 39 minutes. B+

"BIG FISH": The mawkish soul of a male "Beaches," Tim Burton's quirky style and an ending sure to prompt tears, but mostly it's a father-son tale (Albert Finney and Billy Crudup) told in flashback as the dad recounts his tall tales. Ewan McGregor stars in those highly stylized scenes. Well-crafted, but ultimately curiously hollow. — M. Pols. (PG-13: fight scene, some nude images, a suggestive reference.) 1 hour, 50 minutes. B-

"THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT": What's sleazy, features the untalented Ashton Kutcher and isn't a supermarket tabloid? This awful movie about a college student who travels back in time through gloriously easy means to try to fix the traumas of his youth. Mostly he wants to save his childhood sweetheart (Amy Smart). Every time he goes back, he seems to make things worse. The movie displays an unhealthy interest in animal torture and kiddie porn. Kutcher should stick to comedy. — M. Pols. (R: violence, sexual content, language and brief drug use.) 1 hour, 53 minutes. D+

"CALENDAR GIRLS": This chick-flick variant on "The Full Monty" is pat, contrived and entirely predictable. The comedy takes a true story about a women's club that disrobed for charity and turns it into a briefly disarming farce about friendship, celebrity and latent exhibitionism. Helen Mirren and Julie Walters head the good-sport ensemble, as the rebel members of Rystone Women's Institute, a national club that raises money through bake-offs and calendar sales. — G. Lovell. (PG-13: slight profanity, peek-a-boo nudity.) 1 hour, 48 minutes. C

"CHASING LIBERTY": Given the ab-

sence of a monarchy, the first daughter will have to serve Hollywood's princess fantasies. In this case, she's a girl dying for some freedom, played by pop star Mandy Moore. She sneaks off during a trip to Prague, and followed by a handsome young Secret Service agent, flits off to Venice, Austria and eventually, Germany. The picture is modeled on a "Roman Holiday"-like escape, but the chemistry between Moore and her swain, the dashing Matthew Goode, is lacking. It's all just a bit too harmless, and the generally appealing Moore is not at her strongest. — M. Pols. (PG-13: sexual content and brief nudity.) 1 hour, 51 minutes. C

"CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN": Family slapstick that young kids will love for the food fights, older kids will like for TV stars Hilary Duff and Ashton Kutcher, and adults will endure for Steve Martin and Bonnie Hunt as the parents of a 12 children household. In this update of the 1950 film charmer, high school football coach Tom and his wife write, Kate, move their brood from rural Midland, Ill., to Chicago, where Tom oversees the Illinois Polytechnic team and Kate writes a best seller. When Mom and Dad put professional ambitions before family, chaos ensues to moralistic effect. As enjoyable as Martin and Hunt's matching tongue-in-cheek delivery is, their movie is indistinguishable from an after-school special. — C. Rickey. (PG: flatulence and poop humor.) 1 hour, 38 minutes. C

"COLD MOUNTAIN": Early buzz made it sound like a romance, but Anthony Minghella's ("The Talented Mr. Ripley") film is more a Civil War story, about the resilience of the American spirit and love of home. Based on the best-selling novel, it stars Jude Law as a war deserter slogging his way back to his lady love (Nicole Kidman), a well-bred Southern flower ill-equipped to survive. Renee Zellweger steals the show as a spitfire who helps save the day. — M. Pols. (R: violence, sexuality.) 2 hours, 33 minutes. B

"THE COMPANY": Robert Altman's likable new film follows a Chicago-based dance troupe through a few months of its season. The plot allows us to slip behind the scenes and hear the troupe's gossip, particularly news about the recent flameout in the love life of Ry (Nave Campbell). Much of the movie is about life among the insiders, and the compact dancers make with loneliness and sacrifice, a

contrast to the loveliness of the choreography. A great deal of the film's appeal is supplied by the company's genteel, magnetic artistic director played by Malcolm McDowell. — E. Mitchell. (PG-13: strong language, drinking and sexuality.) 1 hour, 52 minutes. B-

"THE COOLER": William H. Macy stars as a perpetual loser hired by an old-time Vegas-type casino boss (the terrific Alec Baldwin) to dampen the luck of others. Trouble is, this "cooler's" luck starts to turn. The film has a few weak notes, but also an off-beat glee. — M. Pols. (R: strong sexuality, violence, language, some drug use.) 1 hour, 41 minutes. B

"THE FOG OF WAR": Errol Morris' Oscar-nominated documentary about the life lessons learned by Robert S. McNamara, former secretary of Defense for JFK and LBJ, from his involvement in World War II and the Vietnam War. Begs more questions than it answers, and don't expect an apology from McNamara, who is still cagey. Make no mistake, he's in charge, not Morris. But the film is of obvious interest, and in these uncertain times, the lessons McNamara gleaned in hindsight are of piercing relevance. — M. Pols. (PG-13: some scenes of violence.) 1 hour, 46 minutes. B+

"GIRL WITH A PEARL EARRING": An art history mystery about the imagined origins of a painting by 17th century Dutch master Vermeer, the titular "Girl With a Pearl Earring." Based on the novel by Tracy Chevalier, the film suggests that the unknown model was a maid in the Vermeer household, a lovely young thing named Griet (Scarlett Johansson) whom the married Vermeer (Colin Firth) had some deep connection with. Composed of many moments of the two staring silently at each other, the movie is as beautiful to look at as a Vermeer, thanks to cinematographer Eduardo Serra, but it is also stupefying, pretentious swill. — M. Pols. (PG-13: some sexual content.) 1 hour, 39 minutes. D+

"GLOOMY SUNDAY": Set in mid-1930s Budapest, this film focuses on a love triangle. Laszlo is a sophisticated Hungarian Jew who lives for two things: the restaurant that bears his name and Ilona, his hostess and lover. She's a beauty, and the restaurant is filled nightly with sighing parties of one, but she is true to Laszlo until the arrival of Andras, a smoldering young cocktail pianist. — T. Burr. (Not rated: nudity, sexual situations, brief violence; in German with English

OPENING TODAY

"AILEEN: LIFE AND DEATH OF A SERIAL KILLER" (NR)
This documentary about killer Aileen Wuornos treads much the same path as the feature film "Monster." 1 hour, 52 minutes. B-

"THE BIG BOUNCE" (PG-13)
A surfer/con man (Owen Wilson) moves to Hawaii and gets embroiled in a complicated scam. 1 hour, 41 minutes. B

"JAPANESE STORY" (R)
An ambitious geologist (Toni Collette) agrees to take a difficult businessman (Gatolito Tsunashima) on a field trip through the Australian desert, hoping it will lead to a deal. In-

stead, a love story develops. 1 hour, 54 minutes. C+

"HONEY": The title character (Jessica Alba) is a bartender by night, a dance teacher by day, and an aspiring choreographer 24/7. But her gifts don't stop there. She has a soft spot for underprivileged children and a deep social conscience. After she hits the big time, choreographing dance numbers in videos, Honey realizes the pull to help ghetto kids is far stronger than her dream. It's hard to know what's lame, watching her Paula Abdul-esque rise to fame or her attempts to be Mother Teresa of the hood. — M. Pols. (PG-13: drug content and some sexual references.) 1 hour, 34 minutes. C-

"HOUSE OF SAND AND FOG": An adaptation of Andre Dubus III's best-selling novel. His plot, a contemporary American tragedy centered on a real estate squabble between a former drug addict wrongfully evicted from her house (Jennifer Connelly) and the Iranian immigrant who buys it on auction (Ben Kingsley) had the germ of genius, but the execution hovered in the realm of melodrama. Thankfully, Vadim Perelman's devastatingly somber movie spares us the weak writing, tones down the hysteria somewhat and features some of the best performances of the year from Kingsley, Connelly and Shohreh Aghashloo. No one is completely sympathetic and the story is as bleak as can be, but it's worth it. — M. Pols. (R: some violence/disturbing images, language and a scene of sexuality.) 2 hours, 6 minutes. A-

"IN AMERICA": This film by Jim Sheridan ("My Left Foot") is short to look like a memory, as if we're reliving family history. An Irish family relocates in a rundown Manhattan apartment, escaping tragedy back home. The death of another child back home. Inspired by real-life events in Sheridan's life, with glowing performances (including Djimon Hounsou as a neighbor), we forgive its excesses, won over by the gentle nostalgia. — M. Pols. (PG-13: some sexuality, drug references, brief violence and language.) 1 hour, 43 minutes. B+

"THE LAST SAMURAI": Tom Cruise plays a Civil War veteran who travels to Japan to help train the emperor's army to fight like Americans. Their target is a stubborn samurai (Japanese star Ken Watanabe in a smooth, compelling performance) who won't give up the old ways. Cruise's character comes to respect the noble samurai, even to fight by his side. Surprisingly short, with stirring battle scenes, but overly long and hampered by the very Cruisiness of Cruise. With Watanabe around, who needs Cruise as a hero? — M. Pols. (R: strong violence and battle sequences.) 2 hours, 24 minutes. B-

"THE LORD OF THE RINGS: THE RETURN OF THE KING": Director Peter Jackson's magnificent finale to the "Lord of the Rings" trilogy reminds us of the magic possible in filmmaking. The journey into Mordor continues, simultaneously with the defense of Gondor against the Orc

FRIDAY MOVIE LISTINGS

Showtimes for Friday January 30

Alameda County

Act 1 and 2
1010 Center Street, Berkeley 510-548-7249
"The Fog of War" (PG-13) 6:45, 9:15
"To Be and to Have" (Not Rated) 7:10, 9:40

Albany Twin
5150 Albany Ave., Albany 510-524-9568
"Girl With a Pearl Earring" (PG-13) 12, 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:30
"Win America" (PG-13) 11:40, 2, 4:20, 6:45, 9:10

AMC Bay Street 16
814 Shellmound St., Emeryville 510-457-4262
"Along Came Polly" (PG-13) 12:25, 1:45, 2:45, 3:55, 5:20, 7, 7:50, 9:30, 10:15
"The Big Bounce" (PG-13) 12:10, 5:10, 7:40, 10:15
"Chasing Liberty" 12:10, 2:55, 5:35, 8:10, 10:40
"Cheaper by the Dozen" 1:10, 3:40, 7:10, 9:40
"Girl With a Pearl Earring" (PG-13) 12:20, 5:30, 8:10, 10:25
"The Lord of the Rings" (PG-13) 1, 5, 9
"Lost in Translation" 12:35, 3, 5:40, 8:10, 10:25
"Master and Commander: The Far Side of the World" (PG-13) 12:30, 3:30, 6:40, 9:45
"Monster" (R) 12, 2:35, 5:10, 7:55, 10:30
"Psychic River" (R) 1, 4, 7, 10
"Something's Gotta Give" (PG-13) 12:35, 3:15, 6:20, 9:30
"Something's Gotta Give" 1:20, 4:20, 7:20, 10:20
"Station Agent" (R) 12:45, 3:10, 5:30, 7:45, 10:10
"Win a Date With Tad Hamilton!" (PG-13) 1:15, 2:15, 3:45, 4:45, 6:15, 7:15, 8:45

California Theatre
2113 Kingside St., Berkeley 510-848-0249
"Along Came Polly" (PG-13) 7:30, 9:30
"Monster" (R) 7, 9:20

Chabot Cinema
2863 Castro Valley Blvd., Castro Valley 510-582-8263
"Along Came Polly" (PG-13) 1, 3, 5, 7, 9

Elmwood 3
2596 College Ave., Berkeley 510-649-0530
"American Splendor" (R) 4:45, 9
"Gloomy Sunday" (Not Rated) 6:45
"The Station Agent" (R) 4:55, 9:10
"The Station Agent" (R) 5:10, 7:10, 9:10
"Winged Migration" (G) 7

Renaissance Grand Lake
800 Grand Avenue, Oakland 510-452-3556
"Along Came Polly" 12, 2:30, 5, 7:15, 9:15
"Cold Mountain" (R) 12:15, 3:30, 7:30
"The Lord of the Rings" (PG-13) 11:45, 3:45, 7:45
"Mystic River" (R) 1, 4, 7, 9:45

Jack London Stadium
100 Washington Oakland 510-433-1320
"Along Came Polly" 12:30, 2:50, 5:15, 7:35, 9:50
"The Big Bounce" 12:40, 3, 5:20, 7:40, 9:55
"Big Fish" (PG-13) 11, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10, 12:30
"The Butterfly Effect" 11:15, 1:55, 4:50, 7:30, 10:10
"Girl With a Pearl Earring" (PG-13) 12, 2:20, 4:45, 7:10, 9:35
"The Perfect Score" 11:05, 1:50, 4:35, 7:20, 10:05
"Torque" 11:10, 1:20, 3:30, 5:40, 7:50, 10:05
"Win a Date With Tad Hamilton!" 11:50, 2:15, 4:40, 7:05, 9:25
"You Got Served" (PG-13) 11:35, 4, 2:25, 7, 9:25

Renaissance Oaks Theatre
1875 Solano Avenue, Berkeley 510-526-1836
"The Big Bounce" (PG-13) 7:15, 9:15
"Master and Commander" (PG-13) 7, 9:45

Parkway Theatre
1834 Park Blvd., Oakland 510-814-2400
"21 Grams" (R) 1, 4, 7, 9:25
"Lost in Translation" (R) 7, 9:45
"The Station Agent" (R) 6:30

Piedmont Theatre
418 Piedmont Ave., Oakland 510-654-2758
"Calendar Girls" (PG-13) 1:45, 4:15, 6:45, 9:15
"In America" (PG-13) 2, 4:30, 7, 9:25
"Monster" (R) 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:35

Shattuck Cinemas
2230 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-644-2292
"21 Grams" (R) 1:10, 4, 6:45, 9:30
"Big Fish" (PG-13) 1:30, 4:15, 7, 9:40
"Calendar Girls" (PG-13) 1:40, 4:35, 7:05, 9:35
"The Company" (PG-13) 1:05, 4:10, 6:50, 9:25
"The Cooler" (R) 2:10, 4:45, 7:30, 9:55
"Lost in Translation" (R) 2:15, 4:40, 7:10, 9:45
"Mystic River" (R) 2, 5, 8
"The Perfect Score" (PG-13) 1:45, 4:30, 7:25, 10
"The Same River Twice" (NR) 1:15, 3:15, 5:15, 7:20, 9:15
"The Triplets of Belleville" 1, 3:05, 5:10, 7:15, 9:20

United Artists Berkeley 7
2274 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-643-9193
"Cheaper by the Dozen" 12:30, 3:45, 7:20, 10
"Cold Mountain" (R) 12, 3:15, 7, 10:30
"The Last Samurai" (R) 2:30, 7:05, 10:10
"The Lord of the Rings" (PG-13) 11, 3, 7:30
"Something's Gotta Give" 1, 4, 7:15, 10:15
"Win a Date With Tad Hamilton!" (PG-13) 11:15, 1:30, 4:10, 7:10, 9:50, 12
"You Got Served" 12:15, 2:45, 5, 8, 10:45

United Artists Emery Bay
6330 Christie Ave., Emeryville 510-420-0492
"21 Grams" (R) 1:30, 7:10
"Big Fish" (PG-13) 1, 4, 7, 9:50
"The Butterfly Effect" (R) 12:20, 3, 4:30, 5:40, 8:15, 10, 10:45
"Calendar Girls" 12:15, 2:45, 5:15, 7:45, 10:15
"Cold Mountain" (R) 12:30, 3:45, 7, 10:15
"The Cooler" (R) 12, 2:30, 5, 7:30, 10
"The Last Samurai" (R) 12:45, 7:15
"The Perfect Score" 12:30, 3, 5:30, 8, 10:20
"Torque" (PG-13) 4:45, 10:30
"You Got Served" (PG-13) 12, 1, 2:15, 3:15, 4:45, 5:45, 7:15, 8:15, 9:45, 10:40

Central Contra Costa

Renaissance Orinda Theatre
4 Orinda Theatre Sq., Orinda 925-254-9060
"Cold Mountain" (R) 1, 4:15, 7:30
"Lost in Translation" (R) 7, 9:15
"Peter Pan" (PG) 12:15, 2:30, 4:45
"Win a Date With Tad Hamilton!" (PG-13) 12:30, 2:45, 5, 7:15, 9:30

Renaissance Park Theatre
3519 Golden Gate Way., Lafayette 925-283-7997
"Monster" (R) 1:30, 4:15, 7, 9:30

Rheem Theatre
350 Park St., Moraga 925-888-3411
"Big Fish" (PG-13) 5, 7:30, 9:55
"The Butterfly Effect" (R) 5:10, 7:40, 10
"Calendar Girls" (PG-13) 4:45, 7:20, 9:30
"Mystic River" (R) 5:30, 9

West Contra Costa

Century 16 Hilltop
3200 Klose Way, Richmond 510-758-2245
"Along Came Polly" (PG-13) 12:15, 2:45, 5, 7:15, 9:40
"The Big Bounce" (PG-13) 12:10, 2:25, 4:35, 7:05, 9:25
"Big Fish" (PG-13) 12:20, 4, 7:20, 10:05
"The Butterfly Effect" (R) 11:55, 1:30, 2:30, 4:05, 5:05, 6:45, 7:45, 10:20
"Cheaper by the Dozen" (PG) 11:40, 1:55, 4:20, 7:25, 9:45
"Cold Mountain" (R) 12, 4:35, 7:10, 10:25
"The Last Samurai" (R) 9:20
"The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King" (PG-13) 11:30, 3:30, 7:55
"Monster" (R) 11:35, 2:15, 4:45, 7:30, 10:15
"My Baby's Daddy" (PG-13) 12:05, 2:35, 4:40, 7:35, 9:55
"Mystic River" (R) 12:10, 3:10, 7, 10
"The Perfect Score" (PG-13) 12:20, 2:55, 5:20, 7:40, 10:10
"Torque" (PG-13) 12:25, 2:50, 5:40, 7:05, 9:35
"Win a Date With Tad Hamilton!" (PG-13) 11:45, 2:20, 4:45, 7:30, 9:50
"You Got Served" (PG-13) 11:30, 12:30, 2, 3, 4:30, 5:30, 7, 8, 9:30, 10:30

San Francisco

AMC Van Ness 14
1000 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco 415-922-4262
"Along Came Polly" (PG-13) 12:25, 2:55, 5:25, 7:55, 10:25
"The Big Bounce" (PG-13) 12:35, 3:05, 5:35, 8:05, 10:35
"Big Fish" (PG-13) 1:10, 4:05, 7:05, 10:05
"The Butterfly Effect" (R) 1:45, 4:35, 7:25, 10:15
"Calendar Girls" (PG-13) 2, 4:50, 7:30, 10:15
"Cold Mountain" (R) 1, 4:30, 8:10
"The Last Samurai" (R) 1:05, 4:25, 7:50
"The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King" (PG-13) 12, 4:15, 8:30
"Lost in Translation" (R) 1:30, 4:20, 7:25, 10, 10
"The Perfect Score" (PG-13) 12:30, 3, 5:30, 8, 10:30
"Something's Gotta Give" (PG-13) 1:10, 4:10, 7:10, 10:10
"Torque" (PG-13) 1:15, 3:35, 6, 8:25, 10:50
"Win a Date With Tad Hamilton!" (PG-13) 12:45, 3:15, 5:45, 8:15, 10:45
"You Got Served" (PG-13) 12:40, 3:10, 5:40, 8:10, 10:40

AMC Kabuki 8
1881 Post Street, San Francisco 415-931-9800
"Along Came Polly" (PG-13) 1:15, 3:30, 5:50, 8:30, 10:45
"The Big Bounce" (PG-13) 1, 3:15, 5:30, 8:15, 10:30
"Big Fish" (PG-13) 1:30, 4:45, 7:45, 10:40
"The Butterfly Effect" (R) 1:45, 4:30, 7:35, 10:15
"Cold Mountain" (R) 1:05, 4:15, 7:25, 10:35
"The Perfect Score" (PG-13) 1, 3:25, 5:40, 8, 10:20
"Something's Gotta Give" (PG-13) 1:40, 4:50, 8, 10:45
"Win a Date With Tad Hamilton!" (PG-13) 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:35, 10

Bridge Theatre
3010 Geary Blvd., San Francisco 415-751-3213
"21 Grams" (R) 1:15, 4:05, 7, 9:45

Castro Theatre
429 Castro St., San Francisco 415-621-6120
"To Be and to Have" (Not Rated) 2, 4:30, 7, 9:20

Clay Theatre
2261 Fillmore Street, San Francisco 415-348-1124

Girl With a Pearl Earring (PG-13) 11:30, 2, 4:30, 7, 9:30

Embarcadero Center Cinemas
1 Embarcadero Center, San Francisco 415-352-0835
"The Company" (PG-13) 12:30, 4:20, 7:10, 9:40
"The Fog of War" (PG-13) 12:10, 2:40, 5:10, 7:40, 10:10
"In America" (PG-13) 1:20, 4:10, 7, 9:30
"Monster" (R) 12, 2:30, 4:50, 7:20, 10
"The Triplets of Belleville" (PG-13) 1, 4:40, 7:30, 9:50

Lumiere Theatre
1572 California St., San Francisco 415-685-3201
"Japanese Story" (R) 1:30, 4:30, 7:15, 9:50
"Mystic River" (R) 1, 4, 7, 10
"The Station Agent" (R) 1:10, 3:15, 5:20, 7:30, 9:40

Opera Plaza Cinema
601 Van Ness Ave., San Francisco 415-771-0183
"Aileen: The Life and Death of a Serial Killer" (Not Rated) 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 9:30
"Barbarian Invasions" (R) 1:30, 4, 6:50, 9:20
"City of God" (R) 2, 7
"Dirty Pretty Things" (R) 4:45, 9:40
"The Same River Twice" (Not Rated) 2:15, 4:15, 7:30, 9:50

The Red Vic Theatre
1727 Haight, San Francisco 415-668-3994
"School of Rock" (PG-13) 7:15, 9:30

The Roxie Theatre
3117 16th At Valencia, San Francisco 415-863-1087
"Yves Saint Laurent 5, Avenue Marceau, 75116 Paris" (Not Rated) 8
"Yves Saint Laurent: His Life and Times" (Not Rated) 6:15, 9:45

Loews Theatres Metreon
101 Fourth St., San Francisco 415-369-6201
"Along Came Polly" (PG-13) 12:10, 1:10, 2:30, 3:30, 5, 6, 7:30, 8:30, 10:10
"The Big Bounce" (PG-13) 12, 2:40, 5:20, 8, 10:50
"Big Fish" (PG-13) 12:40, 4, 7:10, 10:20
"The Butterfly Effect" (R) 12:30, 12:50, 3:50, 6:50, 9:50, 11
"Cold Mountain" (R) 10:40, 2, 5:50, 9:20
"The Last Samurai" (R) 10:35, 1:50, 5:40, 9:10
"The Lord of the Rings: Return of the King" (PG-13) 10:50, 11:50, 3:40, 4:50, 8:20, 9:30
"Master and Commander" 11:30, 3, 6:20, 9:40
"My Baby's Daddy" (PG-13) 10
"The Perfect Score" (PG-13) 12:30, 3:20, 6:10, 8:40, 11:20
"Something's Gotta Give" (PG-13) 1, 4:10, 7:20, 10:30
"Torque" (PG-13) 11:40, 2:20, 4:40, 7
"Win a Date With Tad Hamilton!" (PG-13) 11:20, 2:10, 5:10, 7:50, 10:40
"You Got Served" (PG-13) 12:20, 2:50, 5:30, 8:10, 11:10

Loews IMAX Theatre
101 Fourth Street, San Francisco 415-369-6201
"The Matrix Revolutions" (R) 4:50, 9:30
"The Young Black Stallion" (G) 10:30, 12, 1:30, 3:10, 7:40

United Artists Galaxy 4
1285 Sutter St., San Francisco 415-474-8790
"The Cooler" (R) 2, 4:30, 7:30, 9:45
"Mona Lisa Smile" (PG-13) 1:30, 4:20, 7:15, 9:40
"The Statement" (R) 1:15, 4, 7, 9:40
"Tokyo Godfathers" (PG-13) 1:45, 4:10, 7:20, 9:30

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Reviews

FROM PAGE C3

ting experience that never succumbed, as this does, to self-conscious solemnity, senseless riddles and protracted death scenes. — P. lowers. (R: sci-fi violence, brief sexual content.) 2 hours, 9 minutes. **C**

MONA LISA SMILE: Not much trilling about this ensemble piece, with Julia Roberts as a bohemian 1950s-era art history professor who leads to Wellesley to shake things up. It's got Kirsten Dunst, Julia Stiles, Maggie Gyllenhaal and Marcia Gay Harden, but mostly it's a blur of tweed kirts and cardigan sweaters. The rest thing: Julia's turquoise earrings. — M. Pols. (PG-13: sexual content, thematic issues.) 1 hour, 57 minutes. **B+**

MONSTER: Charlize Theron pulls off the year's most astounding screen makeover as Aileen Wuornos, the notorious Florida murderer. Director Patty Jenkins uncovers the lost, love-starved child cowering under the killer's hard shell. Wuornos, who confessed to murdering six men in the late 1980s and early '90s, died in the electric chair in 2002. By the time the movie begins, Wuornos has plied her trade for years as a hitchhiking low-rent prostitute working the highways of central Florida. The film focuses on her desperate, last-ditch relationship with Selby Wall (Christina Ricci), the lesbian lover who ended up testifying against her. — S. Holden. (R: graphic rape scene, several murders and abundant profanity.) 1 hour, 51 minutes. **B+**

"MY BABY'S DADDY": This comedy follows three bachelor buddies on a journey toward maturity initiated by the simultaneous pregnancies of their girlfriends. There is some real comic potential here, as well as a decent moral, plus the movie shows the further erosion of some ethnic hang-ups that have hung around in Hollywood far too long. The bad news: Having set in motion its overloaded plot, the picture lurches this way and that, evoking more restlessness than laughter. — A.O. Scott. (PG-13: some swearing, implied drug use and implied marital sex.) 1 hour, 26 minutes. **D+**

"MYSTIC RIVER": There are many reasons to admire this dark drama, from the remarkable level of acting talent to the maturity and measured elegance of Clint Eastwood's direc-

tion. The film stimulates its audience like a classic old-fashioned mystery, the tension building to almost painful levels. Two tragedies lie at its heart, with breakout performances by Sean Penn and Tim Robbins as childhood friends forever shaped by ominous events. — M. Pols. (R: language, violence.) 2 hours, 17 minutes. **A-**

"PAYCHECK": John Woo directs, Ben Affleck and Uma Thurman star in this thriller, equal parts sci-fi writer Philip K. Dick and Alfred Hitchcock. Affleck is a consultant doing top-secret digital piracy work, expecting a huge payoff for one last job. But the payday is delayed. Sadly, Woo displays little of his trademark flair, and the dual influences don't jibe. — B. Strauss. (PG-13: violence, language.) 2 hours. **C**

"PETER PAN": A lavish spectacle with a bittersweet core, an old-fashioned family treat. P.J. Hogan ("My Best Friend's Wedding") may have created a classic of his own, by staying true to J.M. Barrie's beloved source material. Peter Pan is played by a boy, which is refreshing, and this Wendy has more dimension than most. — M. Pols. (PG: action sequences and peril.) 1 hour, 53 minutes. **B+**

"PIECES OF APRIL": With a theme about a dying mother (Patricia Clarkson), an estranged daughter (Katie Holmes), and a Thanksgiving dinner reunion, this film from writer/director Peter Hedges has the potential to be as cloying as sweet potato pie. But Hedges ("What's Eating Gilbert Grape") gracefully dodges that bullet, delivering a movie that manages to be darkly funny and deeply touching at the same time. — M. Pols. (PG-13: language, sensuality, drug content and images of nudity.) 1 hour, 21 minutes. **A-**

"THE SAME RIVER TWICE": A piercingly poignant then-and-now portrait of five friends who worked as summer guides on the Colorado River. In 1978, Robb Moss made a short 16 mm movie, "Riverdogs," which recorded a monthlong communal trip down the Colorado. Excerpts from that film make up the "then" portions of this documentary. In cutting back and forth between then and now, Moss is more interested in contrasting the moods and textures of life at

different ages and eras than at compiling a documentary history. — S. Holden. (Not rated: includes some nudity.) 1 hour, 18 minutes. **B**

"SCHOOL OF ROCK": Jack Black stars as Dewey Finn in this happy, crowd-pleasing package with an off-beat, slightly demented script. He's a guitarist with delusions of being a musical deity. Fired from his latest ensemble, desperate for cash to enter a battle-of-the-bands contest and have his revenge, Dewey passes himself off as his substitute-teacher roommate and takes a job at a swank prep school. Put Black in a classroom of uptight, uniformed over-achievers who now have an aimless sub for a teacher, and watch the sparks fly. — R. Moore. (PG-13: rude humor and drug references.) 1 hour, 48 minutes. **B+**

"SOMETHING'S GOTTA GIVE": When making a love story, you've got to consider the kissability of your stars. Watching this movie, it's hard to imagine anyone wanting to smooch the male lead. That would be Jack Nicholson, as a raffish music executive who starts out dating a young woman (Amanda Peet), but finds himself falling for her mother (Diane Keaton). This was an opportunity to make a statement about truly adult romance, but director Nancy Meyers blows it. — M. Pols. (PG-13: sexual content, brief nudity, strong language.) **C**

"THE STATEMENT": A cat-and-mouse thriller set in a France where no one speaks French and the citizens speak with either cockney accents or clipped, upper-crust British accents. Presumably that's to accommodate a cast that includes Michael Caine as a former Nazi collaborator on the run and Tilda Swinton and Jeremy Northam as the judge and investigator hot on his trail. Accent aside, Caine is very good as the odious Nazi, whose connections to the Catholic Church run all too deep, but the movie is kind of a bore. It feels outdated, like warmed-up le Carre from the 1980s. — M. Pols. (R: violence.) 2 hours. **C**

"THE STATION AGENT": A reticent dwarf, a grieving mother and a chatty hot-dog vendor walk into a bar. Actually, they drink beer on a porch. Sounds like the setup to a joke, but

it's the premise of this small film bursting with insightful humor, unforced poignancy and beautifully drawn characters. Peter Dinklage, Patricia Clarkson and Bobby Cannavale vividly portray three lonely people in rural New Jersey who form an unlikely social circle, despite their antisocial tendencies. — C. Lemire. (R: language, some drug content.) 1 hour, 30 minutes. **B+**

"TEACHER'S PET": This animated feature, with Nathan Lane voicing a smarter-than-human dog, is a fast-paced, off-the-wall, over-the-top take on the Disney series. It starts out silly enough, with Spot (Lane), fantasizing about Pinocchio's Blue Fairy coming to his world and turning him into a boy. But the pleasure here is in the Looney Tune-like details. Spot, despite being a dog, has been "passing" successfully as Scott, a boy at the school of his "boy," Leonard. There, Spot/Scott wins most of the medals in fourth grade. But Spot wants to be a real boy. So when he finds a mad scientist, Dr. Krank (Kelsey Grammer), who claims he can transform reptiles, insects and mammals into humans, he tries to talk Leonard into making his dream come true. — N. Churnin. (PG: mildly crude humor.) 1 hour, 14 minutes. **B**

"TORQUE": In this big-studio biker thriller, the laughs, intentional and otherwise, come fast and furious. Martin Henderson is a hunky biker back in town to clear his name with the feds, to set up the drug dealer who got him into trouble and to reclaim his woman, Shane (Monet Mazur). Ford dodges the Hellions, led by Henry James (Matt Schulze), and runs afoul of the Reapers, led by Ice Cube. The riding is a frenzy of special effects, as Triumphs, Hondas, Yamahas and somerotch rocket called a Y2K do things that no motorcycle should do "Torque" is just the sort of film it aspires to be — a chase picture for 12-year-olds. — R. Moore. (PG-13: violence, sexuality, language and drug references.) 1 hour, 21 minutes. **D**

"THE TRIPLETS OF BELLEVILLE": The film's two lines of intelligible dia-

logue have been dubbed into English. Its sensibility, however, remains irreducibly French. The overture is a black-and-white spectacle: naughty, exuberant and a little creepy. It introduces the Triplets of the title, a trio of gangly, cloche-wearing scat singers. The story is too bizarre and wonderful to summarize, but it winds up in Belleville, a Manhattan-like dream city. — A.O. Scott. (PG-13: some violent and frightening scenes.) 1 hour, 20 minutes. **A**

"21 GRAMS": Like Mexican director Gonzalez Inarritu's last film, "Amores Perros," this one is about the ways tragedy (in this case a car accident) creates an unstoppable emotional maelstrom for those involved. Its arty, choppy style distracts from the truth that the film is permeated with melodrama and not as deep as it seems. Sean Penn is great in the lead, but better in "Mystic River." — M. Pols. (R: language, sexuality, some violence and drug use.) 2 hours, 5 minutes. **B-**

"WIN A DATE WITH TAD HAMILTON!": A movie star needs a reputation makeover, so his managers arrange a contest for a young lady to win a date. He's charmed by her sweet and down to earth she is decides to pursue her, much to the chagrin of the hometown boy who loved her from afar for years. Hard groundbreaking, but offers some basic lessons on how the tired romantic comedy genre can be revitalized. — M. Pols. (PG-13: for sexual content, some drug references and language.) 1 hour, 35 minutes. **B**

"YOUNG BLACK STALLION": A horse of a very familiar color. This prequel to "The Black Stallion," but not by the people who made that magnificent film, it's your basic plucky and majestic animal movie with picturesque locale (Egypt), but very muddy plot. Gorgeous IMAX photography. — C. Hewitt. (G) 45 minutes. **C-**

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\$34 to \$40. Wednesday through Saturday, 8 p.m.; Sunday, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. 2081 Addison St., Berkeley, 510-843-4822 or www.auroratheatre.com.

■ **BERKELEY REPERTORY THEATRE** — "Yellowman" by Dael Orlander-smith, through March 7. A dark-skinned African-American woman and her lifelong friend, a light-skinned African-American man, fall in love and find that the color of their skin is still a factor.

\$10 to \$55. Tuesday and Friday, 8 p.m.; Wednesday, 7 p.m.; Sunday, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.; Feb. 12, Feb. 21, Feb. 26 and March 6, 8 p.m.; Jan. 31, Feb. 5, Feb. 7, Feb. 14, Feb. 19, Feb. 28 and March 4, 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.; NO SHOW FEB. 6. Berkeley Rep's Thrust Stage, 2015 Addison St., Berkeley 510-647-2949, 888-4BRTix or www.berkeleyrep.org.

■ **CONTRA COSTA CIVIC THEATRE** — "Dracula," adapted by Steven Dietz, through Feb. 21. Bram Stoker's tale of the Count Dracula, a vampire who tries to exert his will over London residents who fight to save themselves from a hideous fate.

\$15. Friday and Saturday, 8 p.m.; Sunday, 2 p.m. 951 Pomona Ave., El Cerrito, 510-524-9132 or www.cccot.org.

■ **IMPACT THEATRE** — Now permanently housed under a pizza restaurant, dinner and a show is available if you like pizza. "Say You Love Satan" by Roberto Aguirre-Sacasa, Feb. 6 through March 13. Andrew decides to dabble in the dark side when he begins dating the son of the Devil in this comedy. \$15 general; \$10 students and seniors. Thursday through Saturday, 8 p.m. La Val's Subterranean,

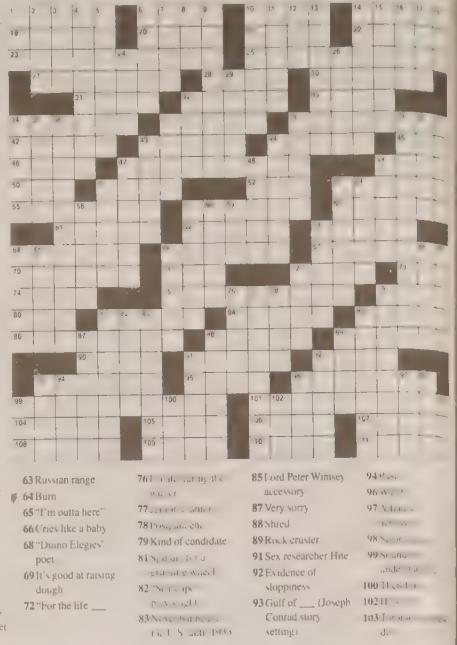
NEW YORK TIMES MAGAZINE CROSSWORD PUZZLE

CHICKEN LITTLE By HARVEY ESTES AND NANCY SOLOMON / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

ACROSS
1 Kid's name
6 Back as
10 Montana tribe
14 Half of a classic comedy duo
19 Ready to be drawn
20 point (never)
21 Monster-sighting spot
22 Car bars
23 "Moon River" composer
25 Bite site
27 During deed
28 Fleeced
30 Staggered
31 Threatening sign
32 Looks to the future
33 Shoot a ray
34 Dragster's pride
37 Comes close
38 Important constituent of igneous rocks
42 "Casablanca" actor
43 "Casablanca" music maker
44 Backslider offering
45 Part in a pub
46 "Goths"
47 The Joker and Batman; e.g.
49 Bounce
50 Allegiance

51 Mario ___ of the N.U.A.
52 Medical research apt
53 One who says "one club," e.g.
55 Carmaker Maserati
57 Not very
60 N. or S. impeachment hearings chairman
61 No-cold drink
62 Hitchcockian
63 Loose
64 Chip off the old block
66 Got together
67 Point in a space
68 Book's trip
70 Provides provender
71 Area of 1940's civil activity
72 Part at sea
73 Skater of cinema
74 Mediterranean capital
75 "That'll be the day!"
79 Boxing's Oscar
80 "My Name Is" Hoja
81 "Asher" (Chaim Potok's novel)
84 Studied late
85 Sends up
86 Plasterboards
89 Needle
89 Hair holder, sometimes

DOWN
1 "Nazarene" songwriter
2 Memoirist
3 Ferry river
4 Scout warner
5 Like a certain homicide
6 Understood
7 Heading
8 Setting for TV's "Newhart"
9 Fictional reporter



Obituaries and In Memoriam

Margot Halvorsen

A wonderful wife, teacher, traveler, gardener and beautiful female role model, Margot gently passed on Sunday, January 18, 2004 at the age of 90 years. She will be greatly missed by her Imhoff family and close friends.

A graveside service will be held on Sunday, February 8, 2004 at Sunset View Cemetery in El Cerrito at 11:00 a.m. Donations to the Richmond Mission preferred.

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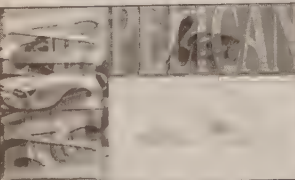
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DC	Diners Club	\$	\$15-\$20
DS	Discover Card	\$	\$20+
MC	MasterCard		
VS	Visa	FB	Full Bar
AC	All Cards accepted	RR..	Reservations recommended
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ETHAN ALLEN®

New laughs spring from caper flick 'Big Bounce'

By Mary F. Pols
STAFF WRITER

The "Big Bounce" is seriously funny in the plot department, where's got to be a great story and this awful caper comedy. How did a movie with such a cast get so bad? What happened in the editing process? And insisted on casting the feeble lead purely on the basis of impressive waist-to-hip ratio? The movie is an adaptation of the Leonard's 1969 novel of the same name. Having never read the book, one wonders if there's a reason "The Big Bounce" is sitting on the shelf since while other works such as "Shorty," "Out of Sight" and "The Brown" were being made into successful movies.

Owen Wilson plays the lead, a Leonard antihero, a small-time crook named Jack Ryan. Jack is a good guy, the kind of guy who might be a bit of a jerk, but nonetheless can be counted on to stand up for the little guy. A love of surfing has led him to Hawaii, where he found work on a construction crew. The natives are protesting whatever it is that's being done, and when the foreman hurls a slur at one of them, Jack intervenes. One swing of a baseball bat, he's in jail. The incident does not put him at odds with the developer, Ray (Gary Sinise). We're meant to like Jack, a sinister little tramp, but he's onscreen for so little time that it's difficult to see him as threatening. We see him as his henchman, Bob

REVIEW

■ **WHAT:** "The Big Bounce"

■ **STARRING:** Owen Wilson, Morgan Freeman, Gary Sinise, Charlie Sheen, Bebe Neuwirth

■ **RATING:** PG-13 (sexual content and nudity, violence and language)

■ **RUNNING TIME:** 1 hour, 26 minutes

■ **WHERE:** Opens today at area theaters

■ **GRADE:** D

Jr. (Charlie Sheen), who is neither funny nor scary. Meanwhile, a local hotel keeper, Walter Crewes (Morgan Freeman), who has a bone to pick with Ritchie, befriends Jack. In one of the movie's unnecessarily confusing subplots, Walter is also a district judge, who would have tried Jack had his assault case gone to trial.

The other central character is Ritchie's mistress, Nancy (Sara Foster), who catches Jack's eye. Since the boss' high-strung wife (Bebe Neuwirth) is in town, Nancy has time on her hands. She wants to rope Jack into a scam involving a stray \$200,000 Ritchie keeps lying around. Jack's smitten with her, but it doesn't make any sense for her to get involved, given that his usual crimes center around stealing wallets and cell phones; but then again, nothing Jack does makes much sense. Ditto for the entire movie.

Wilson is a charming actor, and he's blessed with great comic



WALTER (MORGAN FREEMAN) befriends Jack (Owen Wilson, left) in "The Big Bounce."

timing. What laughs — no, chuckles — we do get out of "The Big Bounce" come from him. But screenwriter Sebastian Gutierrez ("Gothika" is one of his credits, so no wonder) has given him only limited opportunities to be funny.

Foster is one of the worst actresses seen on screen since Cindy Crawford, to the point where she destroys any chance of the movie redeeming itself. She pouts, chews her lip and bounces along next to Jack like a junior high school student on

a sugar high. But apparently all director George Armitage ("Grosse Pointe Blank," "Miami Blues") required from her was the ability to look smashing in a bikini. In sort of a reverse emperor-has-no-clothes effect, whenever she puts on clothing, even just a T-shirt and jeans, she becomes merely a sulky looking girl with dirty hair and a very limited future in film.

As usual with Leonard's stories, there are plot twists and double-crosses, but they lack vigor. Harry

Dean Stanton shows up for a scene, and Willie Nelson has a small part, but their characters are so extraneous, it hardly matters. At 88 minutes, the movie is mercifully short, but after a lame attempt at a slapstick climax, it draws to such a screeching halt that one has to believe there was supposed to be more. If not, Sinise, Freeman, Wilson and Neuwirth were fools to get involved.

Reach Mary F. Pols at 925-945-4741 or mpols@cctimes.com.

Paco de Lucia shows rescheduled

Flamenco guitarist Paco de Lucia's performances at UC Berkeley's Zellerbach Hall — set for Jan. 23 and 24 as part of Cal Performances' "Celebracion de las Culturas de Iberoamerica series" — have been rescheduled for March 4 and 5. De Lucia and his band encountered delays in the U.S. visa process related to the Homeland Security Act, according to Cal Performances staff, and were not able to travel for the January shows. For ticket information, call 510-642-9988 or see www.calperfs.berkeley.edu.

'Plaza'

FROM PAGE C10

Ultimately, groom Borden is summoned and speaks a few period-perfect words through the bathroom door, at which Mimsy emerges radiantly, and all go off to the wedding while we are left to wonder how this beginning will eventually end.

As director of "Plaza Suite," Loretta Janca has created not one but three mini-masterpieces.

Stephen Steiner as Sam and Kip Wixon as Roy are worthy successors to Walter Matthau who assayed both "grumpy" roles in the 1971 film version.

Sarilee Janger is a hysterically funny Karen who evolves into a truly poignant woman betrayed, with ambiguously amusing potential for retribution.

Joe Manente is a wonderfully over-the-top Jesse, and Shannon Nicholson is a perfect "nervous Nelly" as Muriel.

One might never guess Rachel Eisner portrays both the straight-laced Jean and the ridiculously bubbly Mimsy, but she does, with real flair.

Tony Zizzo turns out to be Ms. Janca's secret weapon. After playing a straight Bellhop, he is marvelously transformed into Borden, the archetypal hippie flower child whose deadpan pantomime virtually steals the show.

Neil Simon is acknowledged as the inventor of the sitcom. Absent darker undertones that can sometimes discomfit, "Plaza Suite" is one of his very best comedic works, and Altarena's execution is brilliant. Put "Plaza Suite" on your "must see" list to start your 2004 theatrical season.

ST-SELLERS

based from sales at 45 independent bookstores in Northern California

1. "The Vinci Code," by Dan Brown (Doubleday, \$24.95).
2. "The Friends," by John Le Carré (Little Brown, \$26.95).
3. "Five People You Meet in Heaven," by Mitch Albom (Hyperion, \$24.95).
4. "Amateur Marriage," by Anne Lamott (Knopf, \$24.95).
5. "The Secret," by Robert Harris (Random House, \$24.95).
6. "The Last of the Unicorn," by Christine Dutton (Dutton, \$23.95).
7. "Hamaske," by Jhumpa Lahiri (Knopf, \$24.95).
8. "The Murder Room," by P.D. James (Morrow, \$25.95).

10. "Mr. Paradise," by Elmore Leonard (Morrow, \$25.95).

Nonfiction

1. "The Price of Loyalty," by Ron Suskind (Simon & Schuster, \$26).
2. "The South Beach Diet," by Arthur Agatston (Rodale, \$24.95).
3. "American Dynasty," by Kevin Phillips (Viking, \$25.95).
4. "The Ultimate Weight Loss Solution," by Dr. Phil McGraw (Free Press, \$26).
5. "Dude, Where's My Country?" by Michael Moore (Warner, \$24.95).
6. "Lies and the Lying Liars Who Tell Them," by Al Franken (Dutton, \$24.95).
7. "The Proper Care and Feeding of Husbands," by Dr. Laura Schlessinger (HarperCollins, \$24.95).
8. "The Automatic Millionaire," by David Bach (Broadway, \$19.95).
9. "Bushwhacked," by Molly Ivins and Lou Dubose (Random House, \$24.95).

10. "The World According to Mr. Rogers," by Fred Rogers (Hyperion, \$16.95).

Trade paperback fiction

1. "Life of Pi," by Yann Martel (Harvest, \$14).
2. "Middlesex," by Jeffrey Eugenides (Picador, \$15).
3. "The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency," by Alexander McCall Smith (Anchor, \$11.95).
4. "The Secret Life of Bees," by Sue Monk Kidd (Penguin, \$14).
5. "The Piano Tuner," by Daniel Mason (Vintage, \$14).
6. "Cold Mountain," by Charles Frazier (Vintage, \$14.95).
7. "Three Junes," by Julia Glass (Anchor, \$14).
8. "Girl With a Pearl Earring," by Tracy Chevalier (Plume, \$14).
9. "Tears of the Giraffe," by Alexander McCall Smith (Anchor, \$11.95).

10. "Revenge of the Middle-Aged Woman," by Elizabeth Buchan (Penguin, \$14).

Trade paperback nonfiction

1. "Reading Lolita in Tehran," by Azar Nafisi (Random House, \$13.95).
2. "The Healthy Kitchen," by Dr. Andrew Weil and Rosie Daley (Knopf, \$16.95).
3. "What Should I Do With My Life?" by Po Bronson (Random House, \$14.95).
4. "Fast Food Nation," by Eric Schlosser (HarperPerennial, \$13.95).
5. "Zagat San Francisco Bay Restaurants 2004," by Zagat editors (Zagat Guides, \$12.95).
6. "South Beach Diet Good Fats/Good Carbs Counter," by Arthur Agatston (Rodale, \$7.99).
7. "Michelangelo and the Pope's Ceiling," by Ross King (Penguin, \$15).
8. "Yoga for People Who Can't Be Bothered to Do It," by Geoff Dyer (Vintage, \$13).

9. "Bringing Down the House," by Ben Mezrich (Free Press, \$14).

10. "1,000 Places to See Before You Die," by Patricia Schultz (Workman, \$18.95).

Mass market paperback

1. "Angels & Demons," by Dan Brown (Pocket, \$7.99).
2. "The Ultimate Weight Solution Food Guide," by Dr. Phil McGraw (Pocket, \$7.99).
3. "Digital Fortress," by Dan Brown (St. Martin's, \$7.99).
4. "Deception Point," by Dan Brown (Pocket, \$7.99).
5. "The King of Torts," by John Grisham (Dell, \$7.99).

— Northern California Independent Booksellers Association

EXHIBITS

African American Museum and Library — "Gandhi, King and Ikeda: A History of Building Peace," through Feb. 1. A panel exhibit that celebrates Gandhi's actions and principles of nonviolence. K. Ghandi, Martin Luther King Jr. and Dasaku Ikeda. "Resistance: Maroon Culture in the Americas," ongoing. An exhibit featuring historical drawings and a timeline, contemporary photographs and a selection of ceremonial and daily life objects. "Road to Freedom: The African American in California, 1775-1900," ongoing. An exhibit focusing on the role of African descent played in the exploration and settlement of the state of California. "History through Saturday, noon to 5 p.m. 659 14th St., Oakland. 510-530-1010 or www.oaklandlib.org.
ALAMEDA MUSEUM — The museum's permanent displays of local history, the only rotating exhibit showcasing local Alameda County artwork, as well as books and videos about the history of the Island City. "History of the Island City," through Friday, 1:30 to 4 p.m.; Saturday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. 222 Alameda Ave., Alameda. 510-222-0222 or www.alamedamuseum.org.
AL OF HEALTH — EXHIBITS — "Your Heart!" An interactive exhibit on heart health. "Nutrition," ongoing. This exhibit features models for making balanced choices and an exercise for calculating calories are burned. "Our Own Insides," ongoing. Human-sized chalkboards and models of various organs allow visitors to explore the inside of their bodies. "Prevention and Cancer Prevention," ongoing. An exhibit on understanding how cells become cancerous and how to detect and prevent cancer. \$3 donation; free children 13 and under. Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. 2230 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-549-1564 or www.alofhealth.org.
AL MAGNES MUSEUM — The museum's permanent collection of objects of Jewish importance. "Jewish Art and Fine Art, Paintings, Prints and Prints by contemporary artists." "The Light: The Storied Collection of the Lady L. Magnes Museum," through April 25. An exhibit that features a collection of Jewish artifacts, archives, library and collection. Featured include a recovered scroll from the Queen Mary I. "The Art of David Ireland: The Way Things Are," through March 14. An exhibit of 80 works created by the West Coast artist between 1972 and 2002 including four large-scale installations, 30 sculptures and 47 two-dimensional

JUNIOR CENTER OF ART AND SCIENCE — A center dedicated to encouraging children's active wonder and creative response through artistic and scientific exploration of their natural urban environment. The center's classes, workshops, exhibits and events integrate art and science. EXHIBITS — Three educational exhibits are mounted in the "Children's Gallery" each year. A docent-led tour, demonstrations, hands-on activities and art projects are available to school groups throughout the year.

"African American Inventors," Feb. 3 through April 6. An exhibit that highlights a selection of contributions that African American inventors and scientists have made to American society. Historical and contemporary inventors will be represented. Free; programs and special exhibits have a fee. Through May: Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. 558 Bellevue Ave., Oakland. 510-839-5777 or www.jcra.org.

MILLS COLLEGE ART MUSEUM — Jennifer Bartlett and Elizabeth Murray, through March 7. A major exhibit of paintings by two alumni.

CONTEMPORARY ARTISTS SERIES — "Susan Magnus: Fathom," Feb. 3 through Feb. 15. An installation on the subjects of maps and water. Artist Reception, Feb. 4, 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. "Laurie Reid: Near Miss/Fits," closing Feb. 1. An exhibit of abstract paintings described as transitional works. Free. Tuesday, Thursday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Wednesday, 11 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. 5000 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland. 510-430-2164 or www.mills.edu/MCAM/mcam.home.html.

OAKLAND MUSEUM OF CALIFORNIA — "In Our Own Voice: The Making of a Korean Community," through Nov. 28. An installation that includes photographs, historical artifacts, a video presentation and an illustrated time line.

"Henry J. Kaiser: Think Big," through Aug. 29. An exhibit of artifacts and memorabilia highlighting the life of entrepreneur Henry J. Kaiser. There will be a re-creation of a maternity ward with Kaiser innovations and other Kaiser inventions. "Portrait of an Estuary: San Francisco Bay," through March 14. An exhibit of color photographs by David Sanger that celebrates the beauty and evolving ecology of San Francisco Bay. Text panels by John Hart accompany the photos.

"The Art of David Ireland: The Way Things Are," through March 14. An exhibit of 80 works created by the West Coast artist between 1972 and 2002 including four large-scale installations, 30 sculptures and 47 two-dimensional

pieces.

"Online Museum," Thursdays, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Explore the museum's collection on videodisks in the History Department Library.

Docent Gallery Tours, Saturday and Sunday, 1:30 p.m. Art à la Carte, ongoing. Art docents offer a variety of specialized tours focusing on one aspect of the museum's permanent collection. Wednesday, 12:30 p.m. Free with museum admission.

SPECIAL EVENTS — "Open Studio with Artist-in-Residence Ellen Oppenheimer," Jan. 31 and Feb. 1, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Watch the artist at work. Free with admission.

"First Chance for Bargains," Feb. 1, noon to 4 p.m. A preview sale for the White Elephant Sale that takes place in March. At the White Elephant Warehouse, 333 Lancaster St. \$12.50 to \$15.

"African-American Women in California History," Feb. 1, 2 p.m. Shirley Anne Wilson Moore will talk about the book she co-edited. Free with admission.

"Fall Artist-in-Residence Donna Keiko Ozawa," Feb. 6, 7 p.m. The kinetic sculpture artist will show slides of the work she created while in residence. Free with admission.

"Oaktown Blue," Feb. 8, 2 p.m. An afternoon of song, dance, drama and spoken word performances in a salute to West Oakland in the 1920s, when it was a Mecca for the blues. Free.

\$8 general; \$5 seniors and students; free children ages 5 and under; free to all on the second Sunday of the month. Wednesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday, noon to 5 p.m.; first Friday of the month, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. 1000 Oak St., Oakland. 510-238-2200 or www.museumca.org.

PARDEE HOME MUSEUM — The historic Pardee Mansion, a three-story Italianate villa built in 1868, was home to three generations of the Pardee family who were instrumental in the civic and cultural development of California and Oakland. The home includes the house, grounds, water tower and barn. Reservations recommended. \$5 general; free children under age 12. House Tours: Wednesday, Friday and Saturday, noon, 1 p.m., 2 p.m. and 3 p.m. 672 11th St., Oakland. 510-444-2187 or www.pardeehome.org.

RICHMOND MUSEUM OF HISTORY — Permanent exhibits highlight Richmond's cultural, industrial and architectural legacy. "Places of Faith and Worship," ongoing. An exhibit documenting the history of the many churches that reflect Richmond's diverse cultures and lifestyles. Free. Wednesday through Sunday, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. 400 Nevins Ave., Richmond. 510-235-7387.

Literary Nights in Montclair Presents

Gloria Becker Marchick

author of

Shalom in my heart, Salaam on my lips

A Jewish woman in modern Morocco

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Arts & Leisure

Friday, January 30, 2004



BILL MANN
Multimedia Notes

Bay Area radio still has color

THE BAY AREA media has always had its share of colorful and iconoclastic characters — KSFO's Don Sherwood and Al "Jazzbeaux" Collins spring to mind. We're not only out of step with the country politically, but fortunately, the same is sometimes true in broadcasting.

Two maverick local characters carry on this tradition, both doing double duty on radio and TV.

KGO Radio and TV's Dr. Dean Edell, who now does his radio show from his Marin home, is one, of course. He's opposed circumcision for years (and he's Jewish), as well as the recently discredited hormone replacement therapy for post-menopausal women. Edell's also spoken against unregulated dietary supplements for years, but that doesn't stop KGO from regularly carrying ads for them on Edell's show.

The latest fad the feisty Edell has taken on is the popular Atkins diet. He laughed at putting rice high atop its list of banned foods (it's high on something called the "glycemic index") the other day. Edell has long blasted diets in general, urging people to exercise more and to eat in moderation.

Another diet guru, an improbable one, has come under fire from the outspoken Edell — relationship "expert" Dr. Phil, whose diet book is on the bestseller lists.

"It's ridiculous," laughed Edell. "The guy isn't a doctor or a nutritionist, he's a psychologist. Plus," the ready Edell adds — here comes my favorite part — "he's about 60 pounds overweight."

■ Meanwhile, over on his lively KNBR radio show (airing 9:30 weekday mornings), another local maverick, ever-ful TV sports anchor Gary Radnich, told a funny story about what's going on at consultant-infested KRON these days. You may remember that Channel 4's consultants wanted classy anchor Pam Moore to cut her bangs a while back. To her credit, Moore resisted. As far as I can tell, Moore's ratings have not suffered.

Radnich said on KNBR that one of these hired guns (they work out of Cedar Rapids, Iowa) has been urging him to switch to "Big Board Sports," in which the sports anchor stands in front of a blue screen. There's been a lot of similar in TV in recent years. Tom Brokaw, for example, will retire this fall after having to abandon his anchor desk — and stand — for years.

"I said no," added Radnich, "because I thought it was a gimmick. If my wife had said yes, I would have agreed to it. I like sitting behind the anchor desk." The KRON/KNBR personality, knowing all too well the fickle, callous nature of the TV business, then laughed and added: "I've got about four more years until the time when the consultants tell me to do something and I say, 'Yes, sir!'"

■ **Local radio updates:** Unless you haven't seen all their TV ads, you know that Disney-owned newstalk station KGO Radio recently celebrated 25 years of unbroken Arbitron ratings victories; that's unprecedented. In the fall ARB "book," the 50,000-watt talker fell a bit from summer ratings but still won with a 6.3 average audience share among all local listeners. The rest of the top stations, with owners and audience share in parentheses: 2. KOIT (4.4, Bonneville Broadcasting); 3. (tie) KCBS (4.0, Infinity/CBS) and KMEL (Clear Channel); 5. (tie) KSFO (3.5, Disney) and KDRC (Bonneville); 7. "Wild 94.9" (3.4, Clear Channel); 8. KKSF (2.9, Clear Channel); 9. (tie) "Star-101.3" (2.7, Clear Channel); and KSOL (Univision). NPR's non-commercial KQED-FM was eighth, but it doesn't count. Giants' 50,000-watt flagship station KNBR finished 11th (2.6), tied with Berkeley's KBLX. Big loser: Infinity's "Alice," which fell to 20th, dropping from last summer's 2.2 to a lowly 1.7.

Questions. Comments? E-mail Bill: Newsman@sonic.net

Fest to examine roles of dance

■ **First Dance IS Festival** will celebrate art of movement over 3 days

By **Brian Kluepfel**
CORRESPONDENT

On the evening of Sept. 11, 2001, representatives of East Bay dance groups were scheduled to discuss the possibilities of a collaborative festival celebrating the area's multigenerational talents. Unlike a lot of other events planned for that day, this one went ahead as scheduled.

"I had people calling me all afternoon saying, 'You aren't going to cancel, are you?'" remembers Sabrina Klein, the executive director of the Julia Morgan Theater. "It was powerful for us to convene as a group of artists, in a world filled with terror and chaos."

The meeting galvanized the nascent festival's commitment to community outreach and resulted in this weekend's Dance IS festival, a sprawling, ambitious three-day fest at the Julia Morgan Theater. It attempts to capture the various social contexts of orchestrated movement.

"We wanted to showcase variety and diversity, have more dialog between young dancers and professionals, and make a statement about what dance can be," Klein says. As for the Julia Morgan Theater, she says, "I felt like it is such a great place for dance, but we didn't have enough here."

Among the important unifying moments for the festival was a "share" weekend held in January, facilitated by teacher/choreographers Shelley Senter and Jose Maria Francos. Groups got together and shared performances and experiences. Among the local high schools participating are Berkeley High School, Castlemont and Moreau Catholic High School.

The festival chose three themes for its initial foray, and tonight kicks off with dance as movement. A fitting participant in opening night is Nancy Karp, whose dance company has been in the Bay Area for a quarter-century. Karp, who spends half the year in Sicily, is presenting a small slice of a larger work, *La Traversa* (the intersection or crossing), a celebration of Italian street scenes. Included in the three-dancer number will be the sounds of a fishmonger and an accordion.

Karp supports the festival's overriding theme of sharing. "It's great for me to see younger



MARTY SOHL DANCERS: Michael Armstrong and Annie-Lise Reusswig.

IF YOU GO

WHAT: Dance IS Festival
WHERE: Julia Morgan Theater, 2640 College Ave., Berkeley
WHEN: Dance IS Movement: 8 tonight, Dance IS Story: 8 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 31, Dance IS Social Change: 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 1.
TICKETS: \$15 general admission, \$10 students & seniors
INFORMATION: 925-798-1300

choreographers and their approach to pure movement," she said. She singled out Moreau Catholic High School's troupe for comment, saying, "I thought it

was very sophisticated work for the high school level."

Saturday's program has a bit more international flavor, bringing the traditions and movements of Korea and India into the mix. The Travelers Performance Group will debut a portion of *The Inferno Project*, based on Dante's *Inferno*. Also dancing on Saturday are students from Berkeley High, Castlemont High and Berkeley Ballet Theater's Youth Company.

Sunday's finale puts dance in the context of social statement. Destiny Arts, an arts education and violence prevention center based in Oakland, will incorporate dance, theater and martial arts in an excerpt from

a new production. Fat and fat-phobic issues are addressed by the Big Moves Modern Dance Ensemble, which will present the Mass Movement dancers in *Clutch*.

Klein is optimistic about the future of the festival, (ambitiously dubbed "the first annual") and dance at her facility. "The dance community has made this happen, and money will go toward dance at the Julia Morgan Theater," she said. "We are looking at what makes a hospitable dance space."

Reach Berkeley freelance writer Brian Kluepfel at bkluepfel@hotmail.com.

Love is the question in 'Plaza Suite'

By **Tom Billings**
THEATER CRITIC

Altarena playgoers currently enjoy three flavors of Neil Simon's comedic legerdemain.

"Plaza Suite" is actually a trilogy of one-act vignettes only loosely related by being set in room 719 of New York's Plaza Hotel in 1968 and by the theme Shakespeare articulated as "the course of true love never did run smooth." Except here, the issues boil down to, "Is this really true love, or what?"

At heart, "Plaza Suite" is about the battle of the sexes.

For those too young to have experienced the era on first release, "Plaza Suite" is truly a period piece. Although set a mere 35 years ago, it addresses eternal verities of human nature in sometimes quaintly anachronistic ways. But for those who have been around awhile, vivid memories are easily jogged.

As "The Affair" begins, flighty Karen sets the stage for her 20th anniversary in the same room she shared with Sam on their honeymoon. When distracted Sam appears, repartee is crazy-making. Each seems to carry on a separate conversation with an unseen listener.

The plot thickens when Jean appears on an urgent matter requiring Sam's return to the office.

It turns out the urgent matter is actually Sam's affair with Jean, and Karen observes, "I'm disappointed. An affair with your secretary. Everyone has affairs with their secretaries. I'd have hoped you'd be more creative."



SARILEE JANGER and Stephen Steiner star in Neil Simon's "Plaza Suite" at the Altarena Playhouse.

SEE IT

"Plaza Suite" at Altarena Playhouse runs Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. through Feb. 21. Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$9 for seniors and students. For reservations, call 510-523-1553 or go to www.altarena.org. Altarena Playhouse is located at 1409 High St. in Alameda.

Younger viewers may substitute "executive assistant" for "secretary." Not quite the same thing, but close enough for government work.

In the end, their differences not resolved but only deferred, Sam leaves, and we are left wondering what, if anything, will transpire between Karen and the bellhop.

"The Seduction" deals with a reunion between high school sweethearts, each having gone their separate way, he becoming a famous Hollywood producer and she becoming a "happily married mother of three. Jesse pulls out all the stops to overcome Muriel's anxiously half-hearted rear-guard resistance, and we are left to wonder what will happen once the afternoon dalliance is ended.

As "The Wedding" opens, Norma tries desperately to persuade daughter Mimsey to come out of the locked bathroom so her wedding can begin downstairs, where father Roy is entertaining the guests. He wants the wedding over so the bar bill can be closed out, but his efforts to move Mimsey are of no greater avail than Norma's.

The parents can't understand why Mimsey is reluctant to begin a married life as happy as their own and then realize they might have been flawed role models.

See 'PLAZA', Page C9



JACK TUCKER
Community Theater

2 debuts review battles won

IF YOU'RE puzzled by the title of Alan Ayckbourn's gleefully cantankerous comedy, "Ten Times Table" playing weekends through 28 at the Masquers Playhouse, 105 Park Place, Point Richmond, forget the math — doesn't matter — and think of it as "the entertainment mittee from hell."

English villagers form a committee to present a commemorative pageant as The Massacre of the Twelve — mostly working class.

One member of the committee, Eric, played by Robert, is a Marxist who is determined that the proletariat this one. Just as stubborn Helen (Ann Hornigahoe, the top of her formidable comedic powers), the wife of the chairman. She insists that a horse-led merriment once again prevail for the thinking bourgeoisie.

The fair-minded, long-ling chairman (Norman Macleod, the very epitome of John Bull), must also deal with the mother-smotherly conciliator, Donald, of-order poppin' play Conrad Cady.

Then there's the manic Tim (Michael C. Whacking his riding on the table to make his point and tipsy, lovelorn Lavender (Simon Patton), battling a marital tiff at home the only actor in recent memory who can steal a scene out of uttering a word. He's asleep, head back, mouthing the planning dross.

Adding balance to the lent ensemble are Loni Windsor, Pamela Ciochi, Marti Baer, and Pat Steiner.

Angela Mason, a professional actress in her native England until she came to America in 1979 for a sabbatical and is still here, says her agent is still looking for her — directs with a hand for this sort of thing. As the action spins the vortex of absurdity and her dead-on-target rein it back to the essential plausibility that makes it funny.

Call 510-232-4031 for times and ticket prices.

■ **'HELEN' PLAYS IT** "Helen of Troy" (revised) weekends through 28 at Live Oak Theatre, 1111 Tuck Ave., Berkeley, also involves the Trojan War, but belittles than the Britishing about a simple hot massacre.

The slimmer down of the Greek myth by Hildeheimer (1916-19) the story of Helen from point of view.

The Actors Ensemble Berkeley production by David Fenerty who translated and adapted the story.

Helen, beautifully played by Heidi Hooker, goes in of the present — "now she addresses the audience directly;" then when she to the characters on her husband Menelaos, Nestor (played for comic Hal Schneider), her daughter Hermione (Janelle Paris (Tadamori Yagi), jan prince with whom eloped in the classic novel.

In the revised version, Menelaos persuades Helen to come over for a kidnapping his wife so he, Menelaos, has an excuse wage the war he has been waging for.

A pleasant diversion of violence (except for offstage effects), it's show, as the old Greek knew.

Call 510-649-5989 and prices.

Reach Jack Tucker at tucker@ectimes.com, 510-262-2776, or call 2768.

Friday Auto Plus

cars.com

Friday supplement to The Montclairian, The Piedmonter, The Berkeley Voice, The Journal, The Alameda Journal

Friday, January 30, 2004

Section D

MICHELLE KREBS
She's Freewheeling

er 10 years,
revamping its
vehicle team

MOTOR MATT
over a decade ago, Ford
Co. announced at the
Auto Show the establish-
a special designation for its
performance cars, SVT, short for
Special Vehicle Team. As it enters
second decade, it is being re-
the second quarter of next
Ford SVT models will go
production.
plans to overhaul the per-
brand to move it to a
premium position and shift to
next generation of models that
as the basis for SVT mod-

sales will resume about 18
later for the 2006 model
year, with the introduction
of the F-150 Lightning per-
formance pickup truck, based on
the next-generation F-150, and the
Mustang Cobra, based on the
next-generation Mustang.

SVT Focus will be dropped
this current model year; there
is no successor.

In the future, SVT will be re-
branded for the most high-end per-
formance vehicles Ford produces.
The next round of SVT prod-
ucts will be more extreme, more ex-
clusive, said Phil
Krems, who came from Mazda to
head the unique post of vice
president of production creation for
Ford in North America last spring.
The revamped SVT products
will be more expensive as SVT
moves to a more premium level.
Krems insists the discontinua-

See KEANE, Page D2



MOTOR MATTERS

ALONG WITH IMPROVED durability, the 2004 Lexus LS 430 has a new safety device — a radar sensor that detects an eminent collision and activates to either avoid the accident or help to slow the crash forces. Also, there's a new airbag in the system to protect the knees. The luxury sedan offers a comfortable, yet stable ride.

2004 Lexus LS 430 remains the head of the pack

MOTOR MATTERS

Driving the 2004 Lexus LS 430 brought back memories of 1989 when I drove the newly introduced Lexus LS 400. I thought, "How good can a car get?"

I wasn't alone with that thought. American car manufacturers bought numerous 1989 Lexus LS 400s and dissected them. Engineers wanted to know how Lexus could assemble a car that was so powerful, so comfortable and, most of all, so quiet.

Although Detroit has made vast improvements since then, I suspect

automotive engineers, wanting to learn how to improve on their own products, are again analyzing the 2004 LS 430 from top to bottom.

The ride of this luxurious five-passenger sedan is very comfortable, especially compared to European high-end cars noted for a firm feel of the road.

In the LS 430, even the bumpy roads feel smooth.

One reason cars have a firm ride is to provide better stability, yet the LS 430 doesn't lack a firm grip on the road. Nor does it lack in responsive handling. Quick zigzags

TOM KEANE
Keane on Wheels

prove my point.

One reason is the double wishbone suspension and new monotube shock absorbers. The car rides on 17-inch wheels to give better response when making hard cornering.

The LS 430 also has plenty of power due to its 4.3-liter V8 engine that can produce 320 pounds-foot

of torque quickly. Lexus people told me this car could do 0-to-60 mph in less than 6 seconds.

For a car that weighs almost 4,000 pound, that's flying. This engine uses Continuously Variable Valve Timing with Intelligence, a system that enables quick pickup — helpful when merging into highway traffic.

The Lexus people also told me how great their cars are assembled by boasting of its J.D. Powers and Associates' rating as the most problem-free car after three years for the ninth consecutive year

That is quite remarkable considering that every manufacturer has made great improvements in producing better cars.

Along with improved durability, this Lexus has a new safety device. It's a radar sensor that detects an eminent collision and activates to either avoid the accident or help to slow the crash forces.

Also, there's a new airbag in the system to protect the knees. What will they think of next?

See KEANE, Page D2

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Prices are subject to change without notice. All vehicles subject to prior sale. Ad expires 7 days from date of issue.

Care for 1972 Pontiac Grand Prix pays off

MOTOR MATTERS

Until he retired in 1992, Terry Powell labored at the General Motors Assembly Division at the Lakewood Plant in Atlanta.

He worked in the final assembly area where Pontiac GTO, Chevrolet Chevelle and Pontiac Grand Prix bodies were dropped onto their frames. As the 1972 Pontiac Grand Prix models passed before him, he was taken by their beauty.

Performance reports on the Grand Prix were also positive. After conferring with his wife, Linda, the young couple decided to order one of the sporty, good-looking Pontiacs with the long engine hood.

She didn't like bucket seats so a power bench seat was ordered. "This is the first car I owned with air conditioning," he says.

A sundance orange body color was selected and it was topped with a beige vinyl top. Other options include an AM/FM radio, five-spoke rally wheels, tilt steering wheel, power door locks and power windows.

The spacious interior is covered with dark brown carpeting. Typical of General Motors vehicles of that era, the antenna is embedded in the windshield.

"It took two shifts to build a car in those days," Powell says. He arranged to be on duty when his Grand Prix came down the line so he could be absolutely certain that the body and frame were mated properly.

VERN PARKER
Classic Classics

He was satisfied when the 3,898-pound two-door Pontiac left his work station on March 22, 1972.

"It was 10 a.m. when it came off the line," Powell remembers. When the 400-cubic-inch V8 engine was initially fired up, the sound tumbling out the dual exhausts was music to his ears. The big engine is rated at 250-horsepower.

The base price of each of the 91,961 Grand Prix Pontiacs manufactured was \$4,472.

The extra cost accessories ordered by the Powells drove the price of the car up to \$5,981.45. As an employee of General Motors, Powell took advantage of his company discount which brought the price back down to \$4,103.58.

He drove it home and shared the excitement of a new car with his wife. The next year, they took a trip to Texas and drove it to Houston and back averaging 12 miles per gallon.

Many family vacation trips were made in the Grand Prix, as well as the usual shuttle duties involved with sons, Scott and Robert, and daughter Cheryl. "The kids all learned how to drive in the Grand Prix," Powell says. "They call it 'the tank'."



ORIGINAL OWNER of this Pontiac Grand Prix was working on assembly line when it rolled off in 1972. He has taken care of the vehicle through the years, and everything is original except a fender and some technological additions.

Most everything on the car remains original, thanks to more than 30 years of care by the Powells. Only the front bumper has been replaced after a parking lot mishap.

After a few years, the vinyl top gave up the ghost, so he removed the remains and, instead of replacing it, simply painted the top the same color as the vinyl had been.

"It still runs great and looks good," Powell says. As the years and miles accumulated, various gaskets have been replaced along with a couple of water pumps and a couple of starters.

He adopted a bit of modern technology when he installed an electronic ignition system to help in starting the big engine.

"I saw the needle on 120 mph a long time ago," Powell says. "It starts running good at about 75 or 80 mph."

Another nod to modern progress are the radial tires which have replaced the bias ply originals. One of the original tires, a U.S. Royal G78x14-inch tire still serves as a spare tire in the trunk.

The four new tires support the car on its 118-inch wheelbase. He has installed Flomaster mufflers on both of the exhaust

pipes strictly for the sound effect.

"The valves clatter when I burn," Powell says. Consequently, he burns a mid-range fuel.

Powell put his Pontiac out to 1990. The last long trip was a 300-cursor to Florida. "I'm not afraid it anywhere," he says, but now, more than anything else.

"I didn't set out to drive it the remarks," The Pontiac did come as a member of a five-man car club.

Over the years, he says, "I have and, so far, it has taken good care

Keane

FROM PAGE D1

This beauty also features Vehicle Skid Control that allows the driver to regain control should one need to make a quick zig-and-zag to avoid an accident.

There are many sophisticated amenities and thoughtful features throughout. For example, when approaching the car to enter, I'd click the key fob to unlock the doors and a light from the side view mirror would shine down on the ground to help me avoid a puddle.

Also, a message on the instrument panel informs the driver when the tire pressure is low.

There is a backup camera to enable the driver to see what he or she is backing into. There is also a navigational system with voice control, and a hand-free phone that contains

as many as 18 one-touch numbers on the navigational screen.

The phone can also be operated with controls on the steering wheel. For added protection, the cruise control uses a laser that maintains a set distance from the car traveling in front.

The sound system is top quality with speakers all over the interior so that all the occupants can hear optimum sound—in optimum comfort aided by the rear climate controls.

This car has made great strides since it was introduced 15 years ago

with the ultimate in luxury, safety and comfort. Back then, the price was around \$39,000 and quickly escalated to \$45,000.

Today's tester cost \$70,694. That's a lot of money, but for this pacesetter, it's worth it.

LEXUS LS 430

Vehicle Type . . .
Suggested Retail . . .
Price as Tested . . .
Engine Type . . .

Horsepower . . .
Torque . . .
Transmission . . .
Wheelbase . . .
Curb Weight . . .
Fuel Capacity . . .
Mileage . . .

Five-passenger four-door luxury FWD sedan
\$56,125
\$70,694
DOHC 32-valve, 4.3-liter V8 w/VVT-i
intelligence w/SFI and ETCS-i
290 at 5,600 rpm
320 at 3,400 rpm
Six-speed sequential shift automatic
115 inches
3,990 pounds
22 gallons
City/highway 18/25

Freewheeling

FROM PAGE D1

tion of the SVT Focus and the revamping of SVT does not translate to less emphasis on performance by Ford, but more — performance that is more accessible to everyday consumers.

Martens envisions Ford moving toward what Mazda has done with Mazdaspeed, a brand within a brand developed during Martens' tenure as managing director at Mazda in Japan where he is credited with re-energizing the brand with the return of the rotary engine in the RX-8 sports car and introducing the Mazda6.

Martens said the pricing between regular Ford models and performance versions sold within the line instead of through SVT will have less of a gap than they currently do.

For instance, instead of selling the SVT Focus, Ford will sell a performance Focus it will call Focus ST. The four-door sedan, which wears ST badging, uses suspension parts of the current Focus SVT and features a manual transmission paired with Ford's 2.3-liter, 150-horsepower PZEV engine.

It debuts in the 2005 model year, when the entire Focus line is refreshed and shifts from the current Zetec engine to the Duratec 2.0- and 2.3-liter engines.

Other Ford performance models may be outfitted with supercharged engines and gain the designation of STE, Martens said, adding that Lincoln and Mercury will have performance models, but will not use the same designations as do the Fords.

The automaker recently gave reporters a sneak peak at what might be in store for the future in terms of performance vehicles from Ford's various divisions. Among the "toys" put on the track for play and being considered for further development were: Supercharged versions of the Mercury Marauder sedan and Lincoln Navigator sport utility; a V10 Mustang; and a Focus with a 2.0-liter four-cylinder turbocharged engine that produces 200 horsepower.

Martens called some of the vehicles merely "study projects" while others are more serious.

SVT started as a skunkworks and evolved to a full-fledged business organization and integral part of the Ford Performance Group. Since SVT was officially launched in 1992 with the unveiling of the 1993 SVT Mustang Cobra and SVT F-150 Lightning, it has sold 135,000 vehicles.

A drop in the Ford bucket, admits Tom Scarpello, SVT sales and marketing manager. He notes that the SVTs sold through its 600 dealers in a year amount to all the Fords built in a day — before lunch. He further points out that only 5 percent of Mustangs are Cobras, 2 percent of Focus models are SVTs and 1 percent F-150s are Lightnings.

But it's not about the volume, it's about the image. For instance, brochures downloaded from the Internet amount to 140,000 a year for the Mustang — and 1.3 million for the Mustang Cobra. "SVT creates a halo for Ford and puts us on the radar screen," said Scarpello.

As John Coletti, director of SVT programs, likes to say, "Ten years and we're just picking up speed."

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new rooms and floor plan and interest to today's RVs

MOTOR MATTERS

When you look at RV product development over the last 10 or 15 years, it's not difficult to point to the slideout room application as a significant technology as a significant overall RV improvement. In all, a slideout room adds the amount of available living space — and adds significantly to that area in a way that RVs a lot more fun.

In the early days, slideouts were as "tipouts" because that's what they did. The rooms were hinged at the outer lower edge and tipped out to form a platform out the side of the motorhome. This technology was most often used for mobile homes designed for fixed-location setup.

In contrast, today's slideout rooms are marvels of engineering. They're quiet, reliable mechanical marvels of floor plans; and they're weather-tight seals help them weather the "experimental" aspect of RVs. They're a vital part of today's RVs.

Today's slideouts use hydraulic or electric-powered geared systems. Some use threaded drives, and others employ a cam-and-pin mechanism that's used to the drive used for an angle computer printer.

These systems work well and provide degrees of adjustability. Engineers dictate that the hydraulic systems are usually found on larger rigs, but many hydraulic

JEFF JOHNSTON
Rolling Homes

slideouts are driven by the same pump and reservoir as is used to power hydraulic leveling jacks.

This effects savings in cost, weight and vehicle complexity. Regardless of the drive unit, all of these are functional and reliable.

Bigger has been better for slideout rooms. Whereas once a slideout might be 6 feet or 8 feet long and house a sofa/bed or pair of swivel rockers, virtually any part of an RV interior may be incorporated in a 13- to 15-foot slideout today.

The advent of larger motorhome chassis capable of carrying more weight has enabled designers to use more and larger slideouts. Some motorhomes have four slideouts in one coach, and some fifth-wheel trailers are even available with five slideouts.

Likewise, flat-screen TVs have been a boon to RV interior design because they're much lighter weight and occupy far less space than a conventional TV — both important considerations in an RV — so flat screens and slideouts are matched together with great effect.

Designers are becoming highly innovative with floor plans that use slideouts to good effect. For example, the back of a trailer becomes a cozy living room or den area, maybe with a sunken floor, with a pair of swivel chairs on one side



MOTOR MATTERS

MOST REXHALL INDUSTRIES' motorhome models feature slideouts for 2004. A sunken-floor living room with full entertainment system is a popular floor plan option.

and an electric or propane-fueled fireplace and entertainment center opposing in the other slideout.

With a huge entertainment center across the aft wall, dual slideouts with sofas and recliners make for an almost residential-style living room.

In the kitchen, designers have placed a good-sized island unit, sometimes incorporating the stove, in the center of the floor, and the sink, counter and fridge in a street-side slideout. Moving the room extension creates the working space between the island and the main galley area. With the dinette in an

opposing slideout, the mealtime elbow room is more than generous.

Computer work stations are all the rage in RVs today, and designers have planned functional and practical furniture to accommodate those mobile computing needs. Some computer desks also double as dinette tables and the like, making further good use of limited interior space.

In the master bedroom, a large slideout on one side can house both a long wardrobe and a sit-down vanity table/storage cabinet unit. This opens up a sizable dress-

ing area adjacent to the closet.

Likewise, if the bed also moves the other way in a slideout, there can be space for a modest-sized swivel chair that effectively turns the space into a second lounge or den area away from the action up front in the RV.

The big news, literally, from the Louisville RV show this year was the full-coach slideout from Rexhall Industries. These rigs, such as the Rexhall T-Rex, use slideouts that stretch from just behind the drivers' seat all the way back to the motorhome's rear cap. Inside, these

coaches are pretty amazing.

With both walls pushed out and approximately 12 feet of wall-to-wall front-to-back space available inside, Rexhall has spearheaded what may be a whole new trend in RV slideout design.

The interior design possibilities with this much space available are as exciting as the engineering challenges are monumental. Once the bugs are worked out, the full-body slideout could signal a new era of RV innovations that started with humble sofa/bed slideouts many years back.



MOTOR MATTERS

FIVE HUNDRED is the flagship sedan of the automaker's new focus on passenger cars.

Ford unleashes a torrent of new vehicles for 2004

MOTOR MATTERS

Following the launch of its full-line of minivans, Ford is stepping up for the largest wave of introductions in its history. In 2004, Ford and Mercury will launch nearly a dozen all-new, recently refreshed products. Most will be passenger

The continuously variable transmission (CVT) which precisely selects the right gear ratio, makes the Montego's relatively small, fuel-efficient engine feel much more powerful.

DAVE VAN SICKLE
Down the Road

sedan in the Ford lineup, and is the basis for a whole new generation of vehicles to roll out over the next few years. Diehard import buyers might want to consider the Five Hundred because it's a mid-size sedan that offers upscale design inside and out, and good interior/cargo room.

Better yet, all-wheel drive is available, as well as a choice between a continuously variable transmission or a conventional six-speed automatic. Motivation comes from a 3.0-liter V6 engine, good for 200 horsepower.

As with the Five Hundred, Freestyle's architecture is inspired by a Volvo design, with independent suspension for responsive handling and a quiet ride. It's a purpose-built crossover vehicle that blends the looks of a sport utility vehicle, the versatility of a minivan, and the confidence of an all-wheel drive sedan.

As such, according to Ford, it's not a minivan, not an SUV, and not a sedan. With its dozens of seat configurations, it can transport up to seven passengers or other combinations of people and cargo.

Most shoppers would say it's a modern-day version of the venerable station wagon. But others will concede that, with its Volvo-derived Haldex all-wheel drive system, it's a true member of the crossover society.

Freestyle uses the same 3.0-liter V6 as the Five Hundred, but comes only with a continuously variable

transmission. Both the Five Hundred and Freestyle are destined to arrive in Ford showrooms late in calendar year 2004 as 2005 models.

The upscale Mercury Montego mid-sized sedan is just one of the all-new Mercurys that will arrive in showrooms over the next three years as Lincoln-Mercury continues to revamp and bolster its lineup. It's a very close cousin to the Five Hundred and will go on sale late in the 2004 calendar year.

As with its Ford cousins, Montego uses a Volvo-inspired platform, Ford's 3.0-liter Duratec V6, and either a ZF continuously variable transmission or the premium six-speed automatic, developed by Asian AW.

The CVT, which precisely selects the right gear ratio, makes the Montego's relatively small, fuel-efficient engine feel much more powerful. It's standard on all-wheel drive versions of the new sedan.

Last, but certainly not least, is the all-new 2005 Mustang. Due to arrive late in 2004, it is a completely new four-passenger car with more interior room than before. It's available with a 300-horsepower V8 or a V6 good for 202 horsepower.

Five-speed transmissions, manual or automatic, put the power to the pavement. Rear suspension is still a three-link solid axle design, while the front suspension uses MacPherson struts.

Mustang enthusiasts won't be disappointed with either the exterior or interior design. This is a real Mustang.

That's what going on at Ford for the next year or so. Now the big question is: What's Ford going to do for an encore?



MOTOR MATTERS

RAISING AND LOWERING the soft top on all-new 2004 Saab 9-3 is accomplished in just 20 seconds with hydraulic power and press of a button.

Touch of button opens convertible top

The soft-top operation on the all-new 2004 Saab 9-3 requires no manual involvement beyond pressing a button.

The roof on the \$42,500 convertible is hydraulically-powered, with automatic self-latching to the header rail, and deploys fully in just 20 seconds while the engine is running.

This is partly achieved by the convertible's tonneau, which has a unique two-step cycle, being completely raised horizontally and then moved rearwards, parallel to the top of the trunk.

Better mileage: General Motors Corp. will put at least two million vehicles on the road by 2008 with new engines that incorporate technology to improve fuel economy by as much as 8 percent.

According to a report in the Detroit News, a computer in the engines senses how much power a vehicle requires and seamlessly disables or engages half or all of the cylinders without any action from the driver. This process is known as displacement on demand.

Options vary: Thirty-four percent of 50,000 respondents to a J.D. Power and Associates survey said they want side airbags.

Another survey reveals side airbags at the top of the list of 19 vehicle features respondents wanted, thus more automakers are offering side airbags as standard or optional equipment.

Yet, reported sales of optional side airbags are low.

Distinctive styling: The Chrysler Pacifica crossover vehicle has a solid, sleek shape which emphasizes 17-inch satin silver wheels that are flush with the body.

The high beltline is accented by a black molding that begins at the base of the windshield and continues to the taillamps, giving the vehicle a low, solid stance.

The Pacifica's rear view is distinctive with its integrated black spoiler, which extends the roofline and houses a center-mounted brake

SPARE PARTS
Motor Matters

light. The base price is \$31,230.

New sales pitch: Will safety be the auto industry's next big jingle?

Some manufacturers are touting safety features such as side airbags, fine-tuned driving systems and ease of handling to sell \$20,000 cars and \$30,000 SUVs.

The reason? According to a report in The Wall Street Journal, there's more profit in selling features than in offering zero percent financing or big cash rebates.

Another sales pitch: Buy a house, get a free car. That's the latest marketing pitch to move new luxury homes in Oakland County, Mich., according to a report in The Detroit News.

Sal Mar Custom Homes and several auto dealers will give buyers of new homes at a subdivision in Rochester Hills a \$35,000 voucher for a new vehicle. The homes start at \$535,000.

The voucher will allow consumers to buy a car outright, avoiding financing charges.

Dodge Caravan joins Smithsonian: The introduction of the minivan in November of 1983 revolutionized family transportation.

Chrysler announced that the

Smithsonian's National Museum of American History has added a first-generation Dodge Caravan to its collections.

A 1986 Dodge Caravan will be featured in the museum's unique, new transportation exhibit titled, "America on the Move," featuring the role transportation played in the nation's development from 1876 to the present.

Honda marks 10 million: Reaching a milestone after more than 20 years of manufacturing in the U.S., Honda has produced its 10-millionth automobile in Ohio.

Out of the 10 million cars and trucks produced in the U.S., 8.85 million were purchased in America. The rest were sold in Canada and Mexico, or exported to Japan and other countries.

GM's big gains: General Motors dealers sold 363,181 new cars and trucks in November, up 22 percent from one year ago.

GM's overall truck sales were up 30 percent and car sales were up 13 percent.

"GM's November sales reflected substantial increases across nearly every segment, led by strong sales of our full-size pickups, the Chevrolet Silverado and Avalanche and GMC Sierra," said John Smith, group vice president of GM North America vehicle sales, service and marketing.

A 1986 DODGE

Caravan has been selected for inclusion in the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History exhibit titled, "America on the Move."



MOTOR MATTERS



MOTORMATTERS

CHRYSLER designed its new Pacifica crossover vehicle with a sleek shape emphasizing its 17-inch wheels.

HOME AND BUSINESS DIRECTORY

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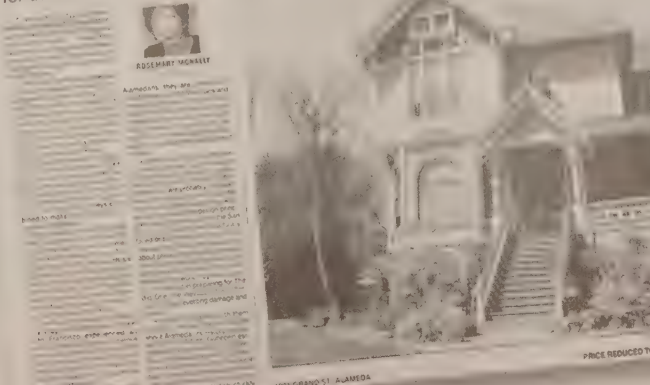
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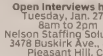
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LOAN OFFICER: East Bay with w/o exp. Call Nick 1-866-556-5656, Fax: 925-421-0100

LOAN OFFICER: For top broker. Every major lender. Up to \$250,000. Leads. 925-460-9770
Web ID CC0106979905

LOAN PROCESSOR/ESCROW coordinator for reliable, motivated escrow. Great work environment. 925-355-2329
Web ID CC0125603174

LOAN Processor: Exp w/Caltrans, major lenders, sal. negotiable. Fax resume to 925-460-9770
Web ID CC0120954484

LOAN PROCESSOR
NEEDED. 3 years exp. in mortgage processing. Excellent salary. Fax resume to 925-460-9770
Web ID CC0127609410

LOAN PROCESSOR (Sr.)
In Concord, \$75K+/y. 3 yrs exp. details. Fax resume 925-215-2365
Web ID CC0120954484

LOAN PROCESSOR:
Walnut Creek broker seeking team player. High production company. Min. 3 yrs. exp. in broker or processor. Fax resume 925-830-0660
Web ID CC0128607468

DIABLO
Diablo Funding Corp. Loan Officer. Positions Available. We Will Train.
• Friendly Work Environ.
• Top Rated Processing
• Loc. throughout Bay Area
Call Greg Landrum
925-277-8100 x595

LOAN
Sr. Underwriter
Countrywide Home Loans is currently offering some exceptional opportunities with our Correspondent Lending Division, serving the greater San Francisco/East Bay markets. For a qualified Sr. Underwriter, in this senior role you will assist in the initial and final underwriting of subprime loans by Countrywide's correspondent lenders. Qualified candidates will have 3-5 years of residential mortgage underwriting experience, subprime underwriting experience is preferred, but not required. Ability to adequately identify and evaluate risk and respond appropriately is a must. Duties may include the training and development of personnel and will involve heavy contact and relationship building with correspondent loan agents and underwriters. We offer the stability, growth, compensation and benefits you'd expect from the industry leader. For immediate consideration, please submit your resume online at: www.countrywidecareers.com
Registration Number 252772 (No Attachments)
We are committed to leveraging the talent of a diverse workforce to create great opportunities for our business and our people. EOE M/F/D/V. Principals Only.

LOANS Wholesale Account Exec. Join our team! Great opportunity to join a premier wholesale lender that is one of the nation's top performing banks. Gateway Bank Whole Sale Lending Div. provides Mortgage Broker competitive products at very attractive rates. We are expanding and need exp. Wholesale Acct. Execs w/ a estab. acct. in the Contra Costa area. Proven track record nec. Email resume to charles@gatewaybank.com
Fax: 925-460-9770
Web ID CC0128606760

Employment

LUXURY apt. commun. In Concord needs qualified on-site svc. tech. Apt. exp. a must. Background, ch. ck. and drug test req. EOE. Fax resume (925) 685-0375

MACHINIST c&c mill & lathe programm. er/operator. 5 yrs. exp. Operating at Napa manufacturer w/37 hrs. in business. 800-733-3982, ext. 19.

MAINTENANCE MECHANIC/SUPVR.
for recycling industry. Eves. & wknds. Billin. Incl. Spanish. CDL req. Welding cert. a plus. 925-322-2181, Call Mrs. Ray 925-686-1633

MAINTENANCE PERSON
Wanted-Exp. help. but not req'd. Fax res 925-520-7603 or call 925-362-7260

MAINTENANCE Tech./Apprentice in the Life Ins. Three to five years experience required. Exp. in sales, communication or marketing. Health related sales experience required. Exp. in computer skills required. Knowledge of health and lifestyle management programs helpful.

We offer competitive compensation and excellent benefits. Mail/fax your resume to Human Resources, St. Helena Hospital, 181-bed, full-service facility located in the beautiful Napa Valley. We are seeking a part-time Marketing/Sales Specialist. Requires a minimum two-year degree (Bachelor's preferred) in sales, communication or marketing. Three to five years health related sales experience required. Exp. in computer skills required. Knowledge of health and lifestyle management programs helpful.

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Employment

MARKETING/Membership Sales Director
Seeking energetic prof. person for FT Mktg./Sales position. Duties incl. membership sales, managing sales staff, club advertising and a great place to work. Send res. to the Bldg. Athletic Club, 1381 Gateway Way, Concord, CA 94520 or fax 925-825-7992

MARKETING/SALES SPECIALIST
St. Helena Hospital, 181-bed, full-service facility located in the beautiful Napa Valley. We are seeking a part-time Marketing/Sales Specialist. Requires a minimum two-year degree (Bachelor's preferred) in sales, communication or marketing. Three to five years health related sales experience required. Exp. in computer skills required. Knowledge of health and lifestyle management programs helpful.

Employment

MECHANIC
TRUCK MECHANICS
"Walnut Creek"
This could be your chance to join the nation's leading provider of comprehensive waste management services in Walnut Creek.

Candidates must have a solid background in heavy-duty truck repair and have their own hand tools.

• Hiring NOW
• CA CDL or ability to obtain
• Exp. with electrical, hydraulics and welding a plus
• Great Pay & Benefits

To apply, call 1-877-220-0000 ext. DBL-WGKMT or apply online at www.wmcareers.com
WASTE MANAGEMENT COE/MT/DB/V

MEDICAL
Alliance Medical Grp.
seeking FT Medical Asst. in our clinic off. as well as our Alameda off. Internal Medicine exp. 2 yrs. plus exp. a must. Please fax res. to (510) 724-3546.

MEDICAL ASST.
Exp. pref. FT. To back/front off. duties. OBGYN San Ramon. Must be flex. friendly, prompt. Fax resume 925-931-0670.

MEDICAL ASST. Immed. opening for Bay off. 3 yrs. exp. Alameda off. Email: marc@777art.com, fax 925-602-0831
Web ID CC0129607879

MEDICAL ASST., W.C.
Derm. FT. exp. pref. Fax Resume 925-932-7752.

MEDICAL BILLER
FT. Pediatric off. Berk. Med. Mgr. exp. needed. 925-830-9271
Web ID CC012598614

MEDICAL-Busy Contra Costa
Group looking for an exp. Clinical Research Coord. Ideal candidate is a Reg. Nurse w/ research exp. (oncology pref.). This job involves 4 local E. Bay off. We offer a comp. sal. long w/exc. bnfcs. Interested candidates pls. fax res. 925-213-8271 or email H.R.: arlene@medgroup.com
Web ID CC0118693671

MEDICAL: Cardiac Sono grapher needed for busy Contra Costa cardiology off. Must be RDCS cert. Able to perform stress echos & echo. Dopplers. Echos & the regional vascular exp. a +. Exc. bnfcs. Fax resume 925-901-0512
Web ID CC0118693671

MEDICAL
CAREER FAIR
Wednesday
January 28, 2004
12:00pm-3:00pm
2051 Harrison St.
Concord
(located behind Park & Shop)

Hospice and Palliative Care of Contra Costa is opening a new hospice inpatient facility in Alameda and we are recruiting for new faculty and our Adult and Pediatric hospice programs. We are currently seeking FT, PT and per diem.
• Manager, Inpatient Unit
• Asst. Mgr. Home (Min. 1 yr. nursing exp.)
• VNs-inpatient only (Min. 1 yr. exp.)
• Per Diem Medical Social Worker (MSW required)
• Personal Care Assistants/Live-Ins
• FT Assisted Care Program Asst. (CNA exp. preferred)
• Cook/Hotel Cooks
• Manager, Comfort for Kids program

Please bring a copy of your resume, employee, and speak with managers about employment opportunities and our clinical programs. For more information, please call Lori Olsen at (925) 609-1830 or email lolsen@hospicecc.org. EOE

MEDICAL Front Desk FT.
W.C. Busy 3 doctor off. Exp'd. only. Phone scheduling, inputting & authorization. Fax res. Lorraine 925-939-9630.

MEDICAL OFFICE MGR
For 90 bed SNL San Rafael. A/P, payroll, medical, medicare, insurance billing exp. req. Email stephen@mcgm.net or fax to 415-491-5512
Web ID CC0135603373

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Success



Wouldn't it be great if your job just automatically came with advancement opportunities? At Wells Fargo, they do! Consider the following opportunity with Wells Fargo Home Mortgage, the nation's number one retail lender:

NON-PRIME LOAN OFFICERS
We are seeking experienced Alternative Credit/UsPrime loan officers to service existing prime Loan Production Offices and Bank Branches in Contra Costa and Alameda counties. We have an aggressive growth strategy for Alternative credit products and operate under a separation of business and internal referral program. Chosen candidates will have the ability to leverage off existing Wells Fargo clients, loan officers, and realtor business. 1 year RE Lending experience is mandatory.

At Wells Fargo, professional development is just the beginning! We also offer comprehensive benefits, inclusive work environments, options to help balance work and home life, and opportunities to achieve personal financial success! Hurry to the next stage! For immediate consideration, fax resumes to (925) 688-0819, Attn: Don Pierce, requisition # 727710 or e-mail to: don.h.pierce@wellsfargo.com.

wellsfargo.com/jobs
Wells Fargo is an Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity Employer M/F/D/V

H&R Block Mortgage Corporation Open House/Job Fair

H&R BLOCK, our name opens doors and closes deals. When you're a H&R Block Mortgage Corporation, you're also a part of one of the most respected brand names in America. We are expanding our teams due to the explosive growth of business and are looking to hire top-notch loan officers for our Pleasanton office. We are hosting an Open House/Job fair and will be conducting interviews on-site at Pleasanton office.

Date/Time: Wednesday, February 4th; 4:00pm - 7:00pm

Location: H&R Block Mortgage Corporation
4256 Hacienda Drive, Suite 100
Pleasanton, CA 94588

Are you looking for LOAN OFFICERS:
• nonprime experience or 2 years mortgage experience
• sales unlimited commission, company provided H&R Block (w/tds)
• considered for this exciting opportunity, please forward your resume to careers@hrbmc.com or fax to: (800) 640-7235. Attn: recruiting@hrbmc.com AND bring your resume to the job fair. For questions regarding the job fair, please call (925) 730-5091. BOE.

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mortgage



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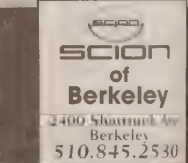
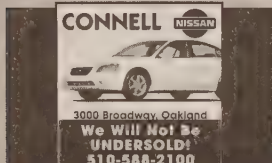
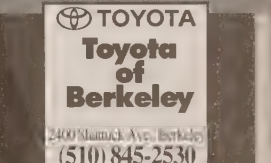
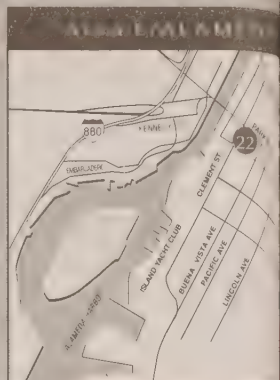
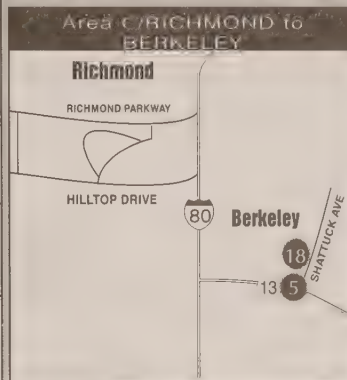
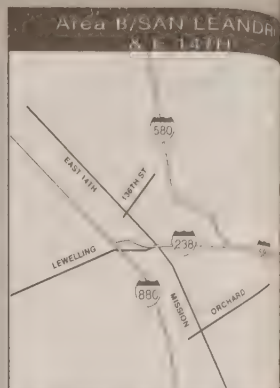
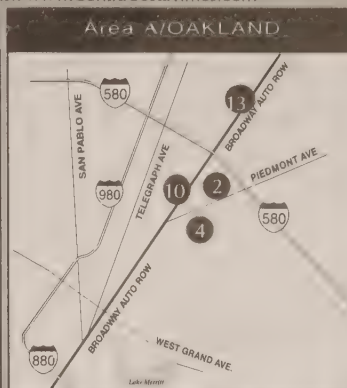
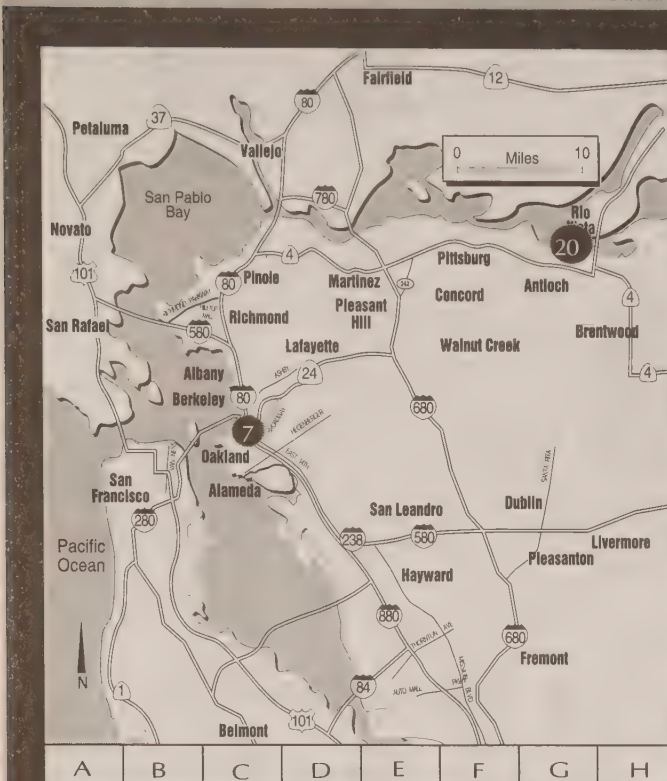
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Employment	Employment	Employment	Employment	Employment	Employment	Employment	Employment
MEDICAL LASER TECH Med laser co seeking mobile laser techs to add to their booming bus. Will work w/ hospes, surgery centers & drs. Exp. pref. but will train right person. gd. DMV a must. Fax res 925 803-2922	MEDICAL Physical Therapist & Registered Nurse Are you seeking a better work environment to grow your career? We have a position for you. We are seeking a Physical Therapist & Registered Nurse to join our team. We offer a competitive salary, benefits, and a great work environment. Fax res 925 803-2922	NURSE P/T LVN Needed at assisted living community in Pleasant Hill. Must have valid CA LVN license, good clinical and assessment skills. EOE. Email: careers@hcr.com or fax: 925-370-6220	PAINTER W/Lic. prt. growth polymers, good work ethics, integrity, drive 925-497-1189 Web ID CC012660735	PLUMBERS-Comm'l & Res. Foreman/Lead installers only. No exp. req. 401k/PTO. Tel. 925-447-5220	PROJECT MANAGER Leading structural steel fabricator/erector of high-rise buildings, seeks an aggressive, self-motivated, progressive mgr. Min. 5 yrs. progressive mgr. exp. with a general contractor or primary subcontractor. Knowledge of structural steel design in Business or Civil Eng. a plus. Competitive salary and benefit pkg. COE-M/F. Send resume to: Pleasanton, CA 94566	PURCHASING REPRESENTATIVE Unified Western Grocers, the West's leading wholesale grocery distribution company, has an immediate opening for a Replenishment Buyer in our Livermore facility. Working in partnership with the inventory levels and reorders products to maintain proper balance. Inventory turnover, and service level, job duties include, but are not limited to: maintaining all price changes and responsibility for item placement. Studying product movement history, lead times, and current movement and making item selection. No exp. req. to the Category Manager.	REAL ESTATE SALES We will train you, 3 pos. available. Quick closing & fee reimbursement. Training course also available. Call Jerie at: COWELL BANKER Coon McCreary Realtors (925)688-1500
MEDICAL/OUTSIDE SALES Shockwave Systems, a premier leader in noninvasive surgical services, is expanding its sales force throughout California. Tremendous growth opportunity for the ideal candidate who is seeking to further his/her experience in medical sales. Positions available in East Bay/Contra Costa. The ideal individual must be motivated & energetic to develop new business & generate results calling on physicians, surgery centers & hospitals. Must have a minimum of three years of outside sales experience, preferably in medical, healthcare, and/or pharmaceuticals. Salary bonus up to \$75K. Shockwave Systems offers a competitive compensation and benefit package. Please visit our website at: www.shockwave-systems.com. Interested candidates please forward your resume to: recruit@starpointhealth.com ATTN: SLS 100 Fax: 949-705-5101 Web ID CC012559282	MEDICAL RECEPTIONIST P/T, W.C. Derm. etc. Fax 925-932-1625 Web ID CC0124601304	NURSING-LVN, FT & PT 2500/hr. 25 hrs. for ins. purposes. Res. care setting. DO kids. Fax 925-370-7154, Oakley	PEST CONTROL MGR Dewey Pest Control is seeking applicants for the position of Branch Manager in the East Bay area. 3 yrs. exp. w/pesticide control. Competitive sal. Contact P. Witten @ 800-997-9780 for confidential interview. Web ID CC013602930	PLUMBERS w/exp. bilingual Spanish & English own tools 925-705-3028 fax 925-778-5555 Web ID CC0124602232	PROMOTIONS Triads fastest growing Promo / Mktg. firm looking for fill ins in mktg. sales & cust. serv. w/ trng. for mgmt. Pos. are entry-lvl, & mgr. No exp. req. Call Lacy 925-969-1817	RECEPTIONIST Busy drug treatment & primary care clinic needs weekend support. Must have exp. in drug treatment, data entry, organization & filing. Skills. Apply: Clinic Director, 1333 Cutting Blvd., Richmond, CA 94804. Fax: (510)232-8652	RECEIVING & Inventory Control Clerk M/F, bnfis. Salary DOE. Lumber & computer exp. a +. Con. loc. Send res. attn: Linda 925-689-8996
MEDICAL SURGICAL TECH For well established, cosmetic surgery practice, Contra Costa, Tue & Fri. Hourly wage + bnfts. Please visit our website at: www.shockwave-systems.com. Interested candidates please forward your resume to: recruit@starpointhealth.com ATTN: SLS 100 Fax: 949-705-5101 Web ID CC012559282	MEDICAL ASSISTANT 2 days per wk. Concord. Fax 925/687-0767 MEDICAL STAFFING	NURSING If you are experienced RN's or LVN's and would like to make a difference in the lives of others, please apply @ 1300 Tancipico, Concord, CA 94520. Fax res 925-561-1674	PEST CONTROL TECH Pr. Exp. \$15/hr. bnfis. 401k/PTO. 11719. Web ID CC0116590648	PLUMBERS w/exp. bilingual Spanish & English own tools 925-705-3028 fax 925-778-5555 Web ID CC0124602232	PROPERTY Manager RV park. Live on site. 925-378-8543 Web ID CC012460438	RECEPTIONIST/Cust. Svc. San Ramon Co. seeks mature-minded person to handle office & other cust. svc. duties. Exp. req. FT, sat. bnfis. Email resume & sal. hist. to: gwienner@quickernews.com	RECEIVING & Inventory Control Clerk M/F, bnfis. Salary DOE. Lumber & computer exp. a +. Con. loc. Send res. attn: Linda 925-689-8996
MEDICAL ASSISTANT 2 days per wk. Concord. Fax 925/687-0767 MEDICAL STAFFING	NURSING If you are experienced RN's or LVN's and would like to make a difference in the lives of others, please apply @ 1300 Tancipico, Concord, CA 94520. Fax res 925-561-1674	PHYSICAL THERAPIST Home visits in San Francisco Bay Area. \$2000 SIGN-ON BONUS for FT. C. Professional Healthcare At Home 1010-235-9746 Fax res 925-299-9417 Web ID CC01265492	POOL TABLE INSTALLER Exp'd. pref. but will train. Heavy lifting req'd. Bkgrnd. check. Apply in person to: Parvul Galleria, 7102 Dublin Blvd., Dublin.	PROPERTY Manager RV park. Live on site. 925-378-8543 Web ID CC012460438	RECEPTIONIST/Cust. Svc. San Ramon Co. seeks mature-minded person to handle office & other cust. svc. duties. Exp. req. FT, sat. bnfis. Email resume & sal. hist. to: gwienner@quickernews.com	RECEIVING & Inventory Control Clerk M/F, bnfis. Salary DOE. Lumber & computer exp. a +. Con. loc. Send res. attn: Linda 925-689-8996	RECEIVING & Inventory Control Clerk M/F, bnfis. Salary DOE. Lumber & computer exp. a +. Con. loc. Send res. attn: Linda 925-689-8996
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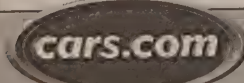
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Friday, January 30, 2004

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Sweet on you: Showing your affection

M&M'S

Valentine's Day season is the time to express appreciation for people who are special to you. Have shown kindness to you and your family during the year could be anyone who has helped your life or given a helping hand when needed.

Showing your affection can be as simple as having some ready-made cookie and cake mixes on hand and several bags of colorful Valentine's Day candy for decorating the entire family and everyone a part in creating handmade tokens of affection. Be sure to include a handwritten note with your gift and use some colorful wrap to express your affection.

tion. It is often the heart-warming thoughts of a handmade gift that say, "You are special to me."

For more Valentine's recipes, decorating, gift ideas and family fun activities, go to www.marsbright-ideas.com

PUZZLE OF LOVE

1 package (18 ounces) refrigerated sugar cookie dough
2/3 cup all purpose flour
1 container (16 ounces) ready-to-spread vanilla frosting
Red food coloring
1/2 cup pink decorating sugar
1 bag (14 ounces) M&M'S Milk Chocolate Candies for Valentine's Day
2 bags (14 ounces each) M&M'S Peanut Chocolate Candies for

Valentine's Day

Fold 12-inch square construction paper or card stock in half. Draw large half-heart along fold-line. With paper folded, cut out heart and open. Set template aside.

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Knead cookie dough and flour together until smooth. On aluminum foil, roll dough to 12-inch circle, 1/4-inch thick.

Place template on dough. With tip of paring knife, cut out heart through to foil. Gently slide foil-backed heart onto cookie sheet.

Bake 15 minutes. Remove from oven. Randomly press three different sized heart-shaped cookie cutters into hot dough, leaving 1/2-inch rim. Leave smaller heart cookies in dough.

Return to oven. Bake additional 5 minutes or until golden brown. Slide foil-backed cookie heart onto cooling rack. Cool completely. Gently transfer to serving platter.

Divide frosting among three bowls. With red food coloring, tint 1 bowl bright red. Tint second bowl pink. Leave third bowl white.

Carefully remove small heart cutouts; set aside.

Spread white frosting over large heart cookie. Sprinkle with pink sugar; brush away excess.

Decorate smaller hearts with frostings and sugar and top with chocolate candies. Place smaller hearts back into large heart.

Fill resealable plastic bag with white frosting, close bag and snip off 1 corner. Pipe line of frosting around outside of large heart. Place white peanut candies on frosting. Makes 8 servings.

VALENTINE CRISPY HEARTS

1 bag (10 ounces) large marshmallows
3 tablespoons butter
6 cups crispy rice cereal
2 bags (14 ounces each) M&M'S Milk Chocolate Candies for Valentine's Day



M&M'S

THE PUZZLE of Love, above, can be made for your one-and-only or shared by the whole family. Valentine Crispy Hearts, left, turn a favorite treat into a heartwarming sweet.

Heart-shaped cake pan (approximately 9-inch x 2-inch). Alternatively, use heart-shaped cookie cutters and a baking pan (approximately 11-inch x 13-inch) for individual sizes.

Nonstick spray
1 container (16 ounces) ready-to-spread vanilla frosting
10-inch flat plate

Mix marshmallows and butter in microwave bowl. Cover bowl with a piece of plastic wrap. Poke several

holes into plastic wrap. Microwave 2 minutes or until melted. Add cereal and blend.

To make 1 large heart: Spray cake pan with nonstick spray. Press cereal mixture into cake pan, pressing firmly into corners of pan. Cool 20 minutes. To decorate: Unmold heart and set it in center of plate. Spread top of heart with frosting, leaving 1/2-inch rim around the edge. Make a single layer of candies on top of frosting.

To make small hearts: Press mixture evenly into baking pan coated with nonstick spray. Using heart-shaped cookie cutter (any size), press out cookie hearts. Decorate cookies with white or tinted frosting. Then, cover the surface with Milk Chocolate Candies for Valentine's Day.

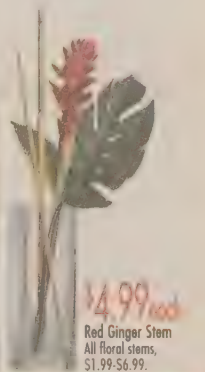
Makes 10 hearts.

See SWEET, Page 3

Vintage Isle Style



\$5.99-\$9.99 Mottled Candles
In blue, mango, ivory, red, purple, green and white. 3"x3", \$5.99. 3"x6", \$7.99. 3"x9", \$9.99.



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All floral stems, \$1.99-\$6.99.



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Ceramic dinnerware with a beautiful Asian design. Microwave and dishwasher safe.

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Chateau Sauvignon Chardonnay	12.99	11.99
La Crema Chardonnay	13.99	12.99
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Merlot Chardonnay	23.99	21.99

RED WINES

	REG	NOW
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Codice Red	6.99	5.99
Blackstone Merlot	8.99	6.99
Boyle Petite Sirah	8.99	7.99
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Rancho Tabara Heritage Vines Zinfandel	10.99	9.99
Rancho Strong Cabernet Sauvignon	12.99	10.99
Sagehen Sonoma Zinfandel	13.99	11.99
David Bruce Central Coast Pinot Noir	17.99	15.99
Ferrari Carano Merlot	24.99	17.99

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COURTESY OF ARA CONTENT

Ten tips for a romantic and memorable Valentine's Day

From its earliest origins, Valentine's Day has been associated with love. Centuries ago, the Romans celebrated a feast every February called Lupercalia. The celebration included a ritual for matching young, single men and women. Names were placed in a box, a drawing was held and couples randomly matched were partners for a year — after that it was up to them.

The Valentine's Day gift you choose for your loved one and how you decide to spend the day says a lot about the quality of your relationship, so give something that has real meaning to you. Gifts from the heart don't have to be expensive. Since the traditional gifts of flowers or chocolates don't last forever, here are ten creative ways to express your love.

■ Create your own Valentine's Day card. Compose a poem or an expression of love that expresses your personality.

■ Create a recollection collection scrapbook filled with favorite photographs, love letters, keepsakes from special occasions, and cherished mementos.

■ Make a CD of your favorite songs as a couple including love songs that you both enjoy listening to. Buy some romantic CDs, classic videos or DVDs and wrap them all together with red ribbon.

■ Jewelry is always a favorite.

For the woman in your life, buy a heart-shaped locket and put a picture of yourself in it. Personalize the locket with your loved one's initials so she'll have something to wear that's hers alone. Package it in a heart-shaped box or tied to fresh flowers. For your man, a good choice is the classic sterling silver ID bracelet or cuff links with his name or initials custom-engraved.

■ Give silk or glass flowers, which will last forever. If your beloved has a green thumb, give a flowering plant to put in the garden to enjoy year after year.

■ Prepare your loved one's favorite dinner and serve it on a romantically set table and dine by candlelight on Valentine's Day. For the sweetheart with a sweet tooth, make a decadent dessert such as a chocolate fondue with melted chocolate mixed with a touch of heavy cream, and serve it with fruit or cookies.

■ Give the man in your life a personalized gift for his favorite hobby such as personalized golf or tennis balls that say, "I love you," "You're a hit!" or "Be mine," or a monogrammed humidifier for the car.

■ The gift of togetherness.

Plan a romantic, surprise Take lessons together to each other's interests like cooking or sailing. Hire a trainer to inspire you to get together, or visit a spa. Spend a night out at the have dinner at a quiet and romantic candlelit restaurant.

■ If you plan to propose Valentine's Day, hide the ment ring in a box of the bottom of a heart-shaped filled with champagne. of monogrammed flutes and make a toast favorite bubbly.

■ If you want to go home, sprinkle rose petals the house. Place heart-shaped candles around your home in the right mood. Then, enjoy a romantic evening. Create that says, "Will you marry me hang it outside her home."

For more information, call 800-901-8758.

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SWEET

PAGE 1
CUPID'S TARTS
 bag Snickers Brand Miniatures (unwrapped)
 egg yolks
 2 cup sugar
 1 cup heavy cream
 packages (6 per package) graham cracker tart shells
 1/2 cups whipped topping or cream
 pink decorating sugar
 bag Dove Chocolate Hearts (unwrapped) or M&M's Brand Candies for Valentine's

Day (14 ounces)

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Chop Miniatures and put them in bowl. Place bowl on top of pot with simmering water until chocolate has melted, stirring occasionally. In another bowl, beat egg yolks and sugar until thick and creamy. Stir melted Miniatures into egg and sugar mixture. Mix in heavy cream. Place tart shells on baking pan. Spoon mixture into tart shells, scooping from bottom of bowl. Bake 25 minutes. Transfer to wire rack and cool. Decorate or pipe top of tart shells with dollop of whipped topping or whipped cream. Sprinkle

with sugar and either place a Chocolate Heart on top of each one or sprinkle with Chocolate Candies for Valentine's Day. Makes 12 tarts.

VALENTINE'S WILD HEARTS
 1 box yellow cake mix
 1 container (16 ounces) ready-to-spread vanilla frosting
 Red food coloring
 1 bag (11 ounces) Dove Milk or Dark Chocolate Hearts
 1 bag (14 ounces) M&M's Milk Chocolate Candies for Valentine's Day

Make cake according to package directions. Pour into 13-inch x 9-inch pan; bake until done.

Allow cake to cool, then cut in half, lengthwise into 2 layers. Create pink frosting by placing white frosting in bowl and adding red food coloring until desired shade of pink is achieved.

Spread frosting on 1 layer. Sprinkle with candies, then top with remaining layer of cake.

Using heart-shaped cookie cutter, about 2 1/2 to 3 inches, cut hearts out of cake and place on wire rack.

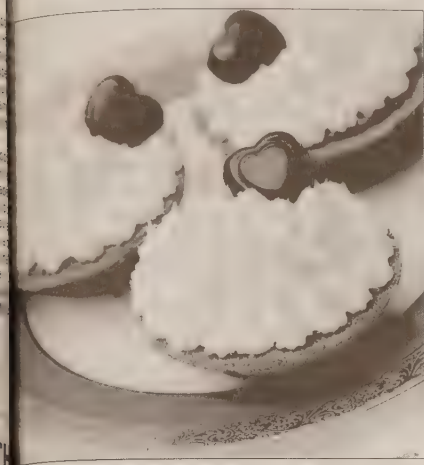
To melt Milk or Dark Chocolate Hearts, microwave approximately 3 to 4 minutes on medium power, stirring every 20 to 30 seconds, being very careful not to burn.

Pour melted Milk or Dark Chocolate Hearts over heart-shaped cakes, being sure to encase completely.

Decorate with candies as desired. Makes 8 individual cakes.



CUPID'S TARTS, left, and Valentine's Wild Hearts, above, are sure to thrill a lover of sweets on Valentine's day.



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Kristin Walker, MD
 Dr. Kristin Walker, a board certified dermatologist and member of the American Academy of Dermatology, received her B.S. at UC Davis and her M.D. at USC. After a pediatric internship, she completed her dermatology residency at USC. Since 1996, Dr. Walker practiced in Malibu and Westlake Village in Southern California and was faculty dermatologist at Pepperdine University. For the past two years, she practiced in Marin where she was raised.

Dr. Walker specializes in adult and pediatric dermatology, skin cancer, and cosmetic surgery. With experience in a highly cosmetic office in Southern California, Dr. Walker performs Botox, Collagen, Laser, Chemical Peels, and Sclerotherapy for spider veins. She also offers the latest products for healthy skin care.

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The Ladies Workout Express in Lafayette offers women a non-competitive setting in which to grow comfortable with their workout regimen. The exercise equipment is designed and engineered to accommodate women at all fitness levels. The 30 minute Circuit Training System features flexible intervals and resistance settings. There is a qualified coach on the floor at all times to assist or encourage members as they move from resistance-adjustable equipment to resilient horizontal pads for aerobics. With less than a minute at each stop, there is no time to get bored.

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Trends in looks, life and love

BY JACKIE WHITE
KNIGHT RIDDER NEWSPAPERS

What's behind the red door at Wal-Mart?

Isaac Mizrahi sportswear is selling at Target stores. So are designer labels Cynthia Rowley and Todd Oldham.

So it's only a little surprising that Elizabeth Arden, the beauty line associated with the Red Door luxury spa and the polished ladies who lunch, is launching Skinsimple, a skin-care line at Wal-Mart stores next month.

But everyone knows by now that, for most consumers, the quest is for value and bargains. Once upon a time, going into a discount store would have walloped the image of a prestigious cosmetics company. When Halston sold a secondary clothing line to JC Penney in the early 1980s, New York's upscale retailer Bergdorf Goodman immediately dropped his line. Today a lower-priced retailer is just another sensible way to reach the shopper.

The line is straightforward and, like the name, easily understood. Developed in consultation with an assistant professor of dermatology at New York University School of

Medicine, it includes a combination toner and cleanser, a couple of moisturizers fortified with vitamins, a cream alleged to reduce lines and a starter kit with a mix of travel sizes. Prices run from \$8 to \$14.

The thrill is gone

You can't wait to bring home a new flat-screen television for your kitchen, a fancy sink for your bath or the new superfast Porsche, but you're working so hard, you haven't time to go shopping. It makes you wonder, whatever happened to your personal life?

Welcome to the universe. Americans are becoming so burned out by long work weeks and frenetic schedules that they are starting to rethink their passion for the expensive status symbols and modern toys their frenzied labor buys. They are becoming more willing to give up stuff just to live their lives, says Marita Wesely-Clough, trends expert at Hallmark Inc. in Kansas City.

"Materialism is losing its momentum," she writes in her recent report for 2004. In a powerful counter trend to acquisition, people "are longing for leisure," she says.

From Wesely-Clough's perspective, almost every major cul-

tural trend is traditionally counteracted by an opposing movement, and in these times of instant communication, technology, "social diffusion" and a "willingness to accept — or inability to escape — new ideas," the cycles are moving much more quickly than ever before.

Some of the other trends she identifies include an embrace of anything big, mega, oversized. Think three-car garages, larger homes (with theaters), megamalls and double rolls of toilet tissue. But at the same time, people are scaling down, going to micromini cars, town houses and neighborhood stores and shedding possessions, Wesely-Clough says.

A raging cynicism is confronted by optimism. Technology such as "smart" homes and clothes goes against a search for natural solutions.

One trend that appears scarcely touched by an opposing movement is the celebrity craze. (Think reality television and "Sex and the City" obsessions.) Well, maybe a rolling of the eyes qualifies, Wesely-Clough says.

Not your mother's Chanel No. 5

Expand the brand. That's the

modern American business mantra. Whether it's J.Lo or "Law & Order" on TV, a name becomes a big-business venture.

Such is the case with two quirky new fragrances that would never have happened in the days when perfume was mostly made of French flowers or synthetic copies and marketed as glamorous and sensuous.

Imagine walking through a room trailing a scent inspired by a trendy popular lollipop (no kidding). It's Chupa Chups' I Love Me eau de parfum from Coty. You have three choices: "I Love Me — Night Fever" in red; "I Love Me — Soul Shine" in blue; and "I Love Me — Pop Vinyl" in a kaleidoscope green. And, no, they don't smell like a sucker; they exude various floral smells.

The logo is taken from a Salvador Dali design, and bottles are available at some JC Penney stores for \$15. The line will roll out at mass-market retailers next month.

Meanwhile, if you loved the show, maybe you'll love the smell. Make way for American Idol scents: "Idol Moments for Women" and "Idol Spirit for Men." The packaging is said to be patterned after the TV show's lights, stage and the color scheme of fuchsia, navy and purple. And the scents are said to have been chosen by the contestants as they stood in line for auditions.

They are priced from about \$8

to \$35 at mass-market retailers.

Room with a view

We've long known that the table nearest the kitchen in even the best restaurants was the worst. You smell the fumes, feel the heat and duck the ketchup bottles.

Now Time magazine tells us it is the prestigious place to be. Diners are paying big bucks and booking months in advance to watch the best chefs perform.

At Commander's Palace in New Orleans, a four-seat table just inside the kitchen is called the Chef's Playground, and a \$75, seven-course meal requires six months' advance booking. At Charlie Trotter's in Chicago, a six-seat table adjacent to Trotter's table means a 14-course dinner at \$175, Time says. And Daniel Boulud, at Daniel in New York, holds the four-seat banquet in his private glass office above the kitchen for charity auctions. People have paid as much as \$50,000.

Party down, literally

You're invited to a party, and you have to make a quick shopping trip to buy something new and won-

derful to wear.

Should you try for something flannel with little bears or pink polyester number one? It's a pajama party, of course, grown-ups, and it is becoming increasingly popular, according to The Wall Street Journal. Women are re-creating sleepovers of their youth in and inviting friends over for an evening of painting nails, playing board games. They eat food and share personal items. Some boutiques come up with accessories' displays, or you may not stay the night, but everyone just goes to pajamas.

Its rise is due in part to going search for novelty themes. It's a way for buyers to catch up with each other from noisy bars and makeup and stiletto shoes is also boosted, the Journal says, by marketing companies offering makeover kits, game of course, fancy jammies.

Jackie White is the fashion editor at the Kansas City Star. Her e-mail is jwhite@kcstar.com.

You can budget even if little money is coming in

BY AMY LINDGREN
KNIGHT RIDDER NEWSPAPERS

For people without jobs, New Year's resolutions for financial health collide painfully with the reality of reduced income and rising debt. When the car breaks down, what else can you do but charge the repairs? Without a job, how can you save money?

Yet, with no definite date for re-employment, how can you go on each month, adding debt? How will you ever dig yourself out? It isn't easy, but you can take control of your finances, even during a period of financial uncertainty. Here are some steps to take.

■ Plan one quarter at a time. An annual budget doesn't make much sense if your financial circumstances will change dramatically at some unknown point in the year.

To plan a quarterly budget, use three pieces of lined notebook paper — one for each month of the quarter. Later, you can tape the three pieces end to end to make one tall map of your quarter's finances.

Now, draw vertical lines on each page to form three columns. The left column is for the dates of each month: 1, 2, 3, etc., with one date for each line. The middle column is for bills due to be mailed on each date, and the last column is for money expected in on each date.

Note that the bills are written down on their mailing date — not on their due dates. That's the day you actually write the check, so that's the day that counts. Don't forget irregular or infrequent payments such as quarterly car insurance bills.

Once you have filled in the dates when money is expected, you can see more clearly where your cash flow problems are going to occur.

For example, if you'll receive an unemployment check in the second week of the month that will cover the utilities but not the dentist, you know you will need to find more money or talk with the dentist to arrange a payment plan. Once you have discovered the cash flow problems, you can also identify the days of the month when you

This is the point where creativity is an asset and pride is a problem: No job or cash-paying task should be beneath you, as long as it is legal.

will have discretionary income to use on groceries and other variable expenses.

In this method of budgeting, cash flow is king. You don't write a check for groceries until you have paid the fixed bills. That's because you can control your grocery costs, spending only a little on the days when not much money is left over from the bills.

■ Look for expenses to cut. Are there bills you can eliminate, such as cable? Can you reduce any bills? Are you eligible for one-time assistance with heat or electricity?

■ Manage your credit-card debt. For the short term, consider paying only the minimum on credit cards, while setting aside a small amount of cash each week for emergencies. This builds flexibility while protect-

ing your credit rating.

Minimum payments made on time are good. Extra payments made late are not as good. Best of all is using cash reserves for small emergencies and not adding to credit-card debt.

■ Devise an income strategy. This graphic look at your next few months is likely to be sobering. No doubt you have more bills than income. This is the point where creativity is an asset and pride is a problem: No job or cash-paying task should be beneath you, as long as it is legal.

Running errands, baby-sitting, shoveling snow, cleaning houses — all are legitimate cash-raising efforts that will help in the long run. If you

See BUDGET, Page 5

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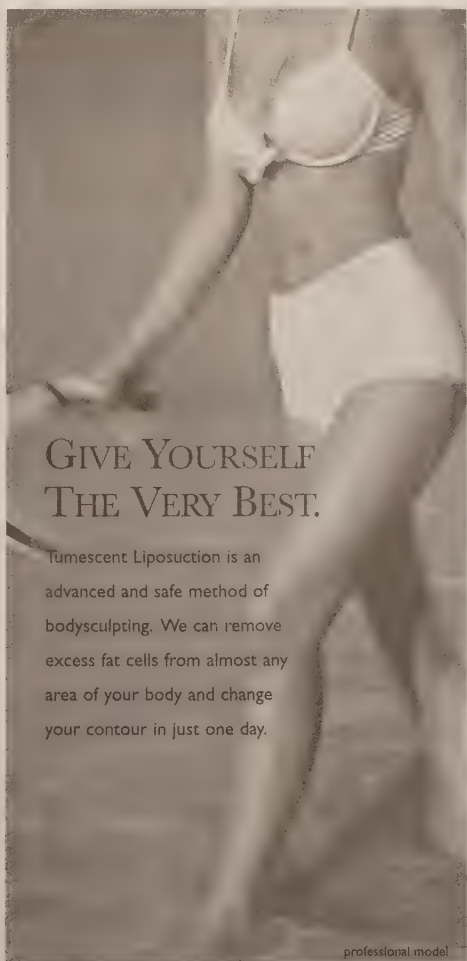
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Online exercise help a growing trend

MARY ROBB FARLEY
ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

If you're interested in working out, a personal trainer but don't feel like the time, or money, or wear Spandex in public? The trend that's growing is that you exercise at home at your own pace, but still have some personal guidance.

Personal training has been gaining momentum during the past few years, with Web sites popping up all over the Internet, offering personal-training services.

Services vary, but most sites offer exercise programs and some offer personal trainers such as consultations with a personal trainer via e-mail or audio workouts. Some offer the exercise programs (for members) and offer workouts to do at the gym or during pregnancy, but may be an option who think they need training, but not necessarily contact with a trainer.

McKinney, of Madison, Ill., a personal trainer with his own business, started offering an online training service last year. His Web site, www.fitnessnet.net, clients can download a manual, "Fitness and

More," for \$29.99. The manual shows workouts that can be done at home with dumbbells; illustrations show how to advance from one routine to the next. The Web site also advertises a one-half-hour personal-training phone consultation for \$50.

McKinney says customers can e-mail, call or visit for personal advice. Clients get in touch when they need motivation or have a question, he said, and can also sign up for e-mails with fitness tips that McKinney prepares.

McKinney said he has had about 200 online clients. He is certified by the National Federation of Professional Trainers and also is a certified post-rehabilitation specialist with the American Academy of Health and Fitness Professionals. He's been a personal trainer since the early 1990s and in 1990 won the Mr. Southern Illinois bodybuilding competition. He preaches high-intensity, low-force training, with workouts that take about 10 to 15 minutes. The goal is to get "the most effect for the least dose (of exercise). Too much exercise can cause joint pain," and other problems, McKinney said.

Jason Rulo, a personal trainer for the Wellbridge health club chain

See TRAINING, Page 7

Dinner Tonight: Cilantro, pecans dress up catfish fillets

BY RENEE ENNA
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Here's a dish that teams zesty flavors with meaty fillets of catfish. The initial idea — to broil catfish with lime and cilantro, then place it on a bed of seasoned spaghetti — was further improved by Mark Graham in the test kitchen, who coated the fish and pasta with toasted ground pecans.

Team this dish with the pleasantly sharp flavors of cucumbers and tomatoes. For dessert, make an easy cookie sundae: Heat a few gingersnap cookies in a 350-degree oven or microwave just until warm, then crumble them on top of individual bowls of vanilla ice cream.

Menu: Catfish with lime-cilantro butter on a bed of spaghetti, cucumber and tomato salad, gingersnap sundaes and Sauvignon blanc.

Tips: For a vegetarian version, sauté cubes of tofu with the butter, lime and cilantro, then toss the mixture with the pasta. Rice or any pasta can be substituted for the spaghetti.



BOB FLAHERTY

PECANS AND CILANTRO-LIME BUTTER add crunch and flavor to catfish fillets.

Broiled Catfish with Lime-Cilantro Butter on a Bed of Spaghetti

1/2 pound spaghetti
4 tablespoons butter, softened
1 tablespoon minced fresh cilantro plus 2 sprigs
Juice and zest of 1 lime
1/2 teaspoon salt
Freshly ground pepper
2 fillets catfish

2 tablespoons toasted ground pecans (see directions)
Cook pasta according to package directions.

While it is cooking, combine butter, minced cilantro, lime juice, zest, salt and pepper to taste in small bowl.

Heat broiler to high; place catfish in roasting pan. Brush half of

the butter-cilantro mixture over catfish. Broil until fish is browned, flaky and cooked through, about 6 minutes. Set aside; keep warm.

Drain pasta, reserving 1/2 cup cooking liquid. Toss pasta with remaining butter-cilantro mixture, reserved liquid and 1 tablespoon of the pecans.

Arrange pasta on a platter.

Top with fish; garnish with remaining nuts and cilantro sprigs.

To toast pecans, place in a dry skillet over medium-low heat. Cook, stirring occasionally, until golden-brown, 1-2 minutes. Watch carefully to avoid burning.

Preparation time: 10 minutes, cooking time: 10 minutes, makes 2 servings.

Get

AGE 4
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■ Don't despair. You may be in a bad spot right now, but things will improve when you get a job. In the meantime, watch your finances like a hawk, don't spend anything extra and bring in money wherever you can. It will be worth the effort. You will be so grateful later if you can keep things from getting any worse now.

Amy Lindgren, the owner of a career consulting firm in St. Paul, Minn., can be reached at alindgren@pioneerpress.com.

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Starting small: A few kernels of corn grow into a love of gardening

BY BETH BOTTS
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

It was just a handful of corn kernels bought for 25 cents at the farm exhibit at the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago.

Six-year-old Robert Kennedy and his brother, Stratford, 7, have been gardening since they were toddlers. So they knew just what to do.

Robert dug a hole and planted a few seeds in a sunny corner of the tiny front yard of their townhouse a couple of blocks from Wrigley Field. "I watered it and the

plants just popped out," Robert says. The boys scattered a little granular fertilizer onto the ground around the corn plants. And by August, the 8-foot-tall corn was turning heads in the neighborhood.

Nor was corn the boys' only crop. In pots on the family's roof garden ("a yard in the sky," Robert says), they grew a pumpkin, lettuce and tomatoes. "They love it when they can just take something off the plant, put it in a bowl and eat it," says their mother, Karen Kennedy. Gardening does more for chil-

dren than offer the pride of providing a meal. It teaches about the cycle of life, about time, about patience, about nature, about nurture, and about cause and effect.

Take, for instance, the Kennedy boys' pumpkin. They got the idea of growing pumpkins from a children's book that described a boy who made money from his pumpkin crop. "They saw those seeds as potential gold," their mother says. Veteran seed savers — they regularly gather seeds from morning glories and nasturtiums to plant the fol-

lowing year — they scraped the seeds out of their Halloween jack-o'-lantern, dried them, saved them over the winter and planted them in a pot in the spring.

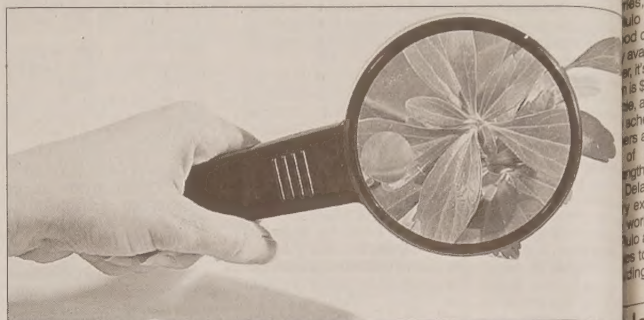
Unfortunately, it turns out pumpkins don't grow very well in a small

pot. Parts of the sprawling vine rotted, and it yielded just one small pumpkin. "But that's a lesson: Match the size of the pot to the plant," Kennedy says.

And, most important, the pumpkin plant was the boys' idea.

"Adults should, as possible, let the kids make a decision about what to plant and plant it," advises Katherine Johnson, author of "The Gardening Book" by Jane Bull (DK Publishing, 48 pages, \$12.99) offers a range of related projects for children good for winter, such as Potato Head-like ones green grass hair grown by kids made of sawdust and pantyhose.

See KIDS, Page 10



A MAGNIFYING GLASS is good for peering at plant structures and bugs.

Useful tools for kids who garden

BY BETH BOTTS
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Here are some useful things for kids who garden:

Gloves: "Gardening is a messy activity," says Katherine Johnson, manager of the Children's Garden under construction at The Morton Arboretum in Lisle.

Adult tools: Plastic tools may be fun for toddlers to bang around, but let older kids use solid grownup ones, Johnson says. "If you have to dig in soil with a plastic trowel, it's not going to be a real good experience."

A ruler: "You can write down the change in plants from day to day," Karen Kennedy says. "Kids love to see change."

A magnifying glass: Good for examining bugs or tiny sprouts, author Lynne Cherry says.

Grandparents: "A lot of grandparents know how to garden, but the last generation has lost a lot of knowledge," Cherry says. She encourages grandparents to get to-

gether with grandkids to grow things.

Marigold seeds: As long as you have a sunny spot, "you can't go wrong," Johnson says.

"The Gardening Book" by Jane Bull (DK Publishing, 48 pages, \$12.99) offers a range of related projects for children good for winter, such as Potato Head-like ones green grass hair grown by kids made of sawdust and pantyhose.



CHRIS OKEN/KRT

BROTHERS ROBERT, left, and Stratford Kennedy show off the corn they grew from seeds in the front of their house in Chicago, Ill.

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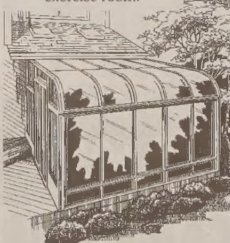
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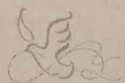
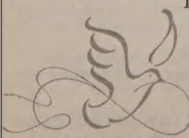
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o said online training can be
choice because it allows for
availability of a quality personal
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allowing clients to make their
chedule and not have to meet
at certain times. A one-time
\$20 covers a book —
"Training Anatomy" by Fred-
— that "breaks down
exercise, how to do it, how
k." Rulo said.
accepts that there are chal-
o online training, however,
not having direct control

over a client's progress and safety.
And it might not be the right option
for novices, he said. "If someone
comes to me with no experience,
I'm going to tell them to go to a reg-
ular personal trainer, a quality per-
sonal trainer and then later she can
come to me."
Clients begin by filling out an
evaluation about body weight, pre-
vious injuries, sports background,
goals, nutrition and any conditions
that might require a doctor's clear-
ance. Rulo then sets up a workout
card for the client to follow, includ-
ing resistance training, stretching,
diet tips and eventually, cardio pro-
grams. "I try to follow up once or
twice a week with every single client," he said, using e-mail, Web
chats and instant messaging.
Rulo has a bachelor of science
degree from Southeast Missouri
State in fitness and sports medicine
and is a certified American College
of Sports Medicine health/fitness in-
structor and National Strength &
Conditioning Association certified
strength and conditioning specialist.

The American Council on Exer-
cise cautions that novice exercisers
who haven't worked with weights
or exercise machines in the past
should begin with a hands-on
trainer before using an online ser-
vice. ACE advises checking the
qualifications of the staff that will
be training you and making sure
they're certified by a reputable or-
ganization. Look for an online site
that's easy to navigate, and sam-
ple workout plans to make sure you
understand the exercises and have
enough information to be able to
do them on your own.
Sites should make it easy to
contact a trainer by e-mail, but it's
even better if they also offer a
phone number for those times
when a cyber-connection just won't
cut it. And if you decide to sign up,
be sure that the site requires a de-
tailed evaluation of your health his-
tory, workout goals and current fit-
ness level. Those that don't may
simply be handing out stock work-
outs that aren't really personalized
to specific needs.

IS
PAGE 6

er of the Children's Garden
construction at The Morton
um in Uslie, Ill., due to open
spring of 2005.
garden started her boys gar-
den when they were 2 and 3
old. "It was a long, cold
winter, and we wanted
to do," she says. They
by starting seeds indoors.
exciting because we could
change," she says. From
the boys have pushed on to
growing and food crops.
move to water a wilted plant
it perk up. They watch
and "root for the plants"
atoms, their mother says.
keep careful track of their
progress and compare the
different plants grow.
quires some patience," says
n. Gardening takes time ...
s how nature works. Gar-
reaches kids that sometimes

you have to slow down and wait for
something to happen."
Of course, some plants happen
faster than others: Slow radish
seeds in the spring garden, and you
have something edible in just a few
weeks. But for many plants, John-
son says, you might do better if you
start seeds indoors and transplant
them to the garden. The Kennedys
save the big, flat, lidded plastic trays
from the boys' birthday cakes and
use them as mini-terrariums for
starting seeds.
The Kennedys don't use pesti-
cides or herbicides. They buy a bag
of ladybugs at the garden center
each spring and release them on the
roof garden.
This fall, they brought many of
the roof-garden plants into the
house. "They would freeze if they
stayed outdoors in the winter," Strat-
ford explains.

The boys' ambitions continue to
grow. Stratford has planted one of
the "helicopter seeds" from a
nearby maple in the front yard. "I'm
trying to make it big so I can have
a tree house," he says. The tree is
only a few months old, "but it's so
big for its age," he says. "I watered
it every day."
Here are some resources for children:
■ www.urbanext.uiuc.edu/kids.
This University of Illinois site, aimed
at grade-school children, has sec-
tions on gardening, insects, trees
and earthworms, among other top-
ics. In English and Spanish.
■ www.kidsgardening.com. A
project of the National Gardening
Association, this site is aimed
mainly at teachers but has a good
Parents' Primer too.

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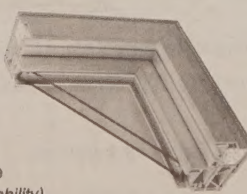
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Re-energize and restart your search for job

BY AMY LINDGREN
KNIGHT RIDDER NEWSPAPERS

The new year has officially started. If you're unemployed, you may have lost some job search momentum during the holidays. On the other hand, you may feel well rested and ready to commit your full energy to the problem of finding work.

Whatever your situation, these steps will help you jump-start your job search.

■ **Make a timeline for re-employment.** When do you want or need to be re-employed? You may not be able to control the actual date an offer will come to you, but without a goal you have no guideline for daily decisions.

For example, if you get a low offer, should you take it? That depends. If you need a job within six months, maybe not. But if your goal date is next month and you have no other prospects, maybe yes.

Mark your goal date for re-employment on a calendar and then work backward to determine dates for assessment and redirection. In a typical six-month job search, I recommend stopping at the three-month mark to assess progress and consider setting a new direction. By the fourth month, you should be considering a Plan B, and by the fifth month you should start implementing that plan.

■ **Set your pace for job search.** Once you know your re-employment date, you can create the pace. If your goal date is around the corner, you might need to skip the preliminaries of networking and go directly to cold calling and drop-in visits. If you have several months, you'll find the networking is worthwhile, as it helps you connect with employers at a more meaningful level.

In general, count on contacting about 100 people to get 10 in-person meetings or interviews. Then you'll need all 10 of those meetings to get an offer. In other words, whether your contacts are networking or cold calls or drop-in visits with your resume, it will take 100 of them to get an offer.

In general, count on contacting about 100 people to get 10 in-person meetings or interviews. Then you'll need all 10 of those meetings to get an offer. In other words, whether your contacts are networking or cold calls or drop-in visits with your resume, it will take 100 of them to get an offer.

How many contacts will you make each day to be employed by your goal date?

■ **Set your daily schedule.** Now that you know the pace you need, create a daily or weekly schedule. Are you a morning person? If so, a good schedule might be three hours of contacts before noon, with research or support group meetings set for the afternoons. End your day at a reasonable time, to renew your energy for the next day.

■ **Schedule breaks.** If you are job searching full-time, your day should be no more than six hours. After that, you lose effectiveness.

One of the job seeker's chief assets is energy, so safeguard yours by taking daily breaks to meet with friends, exercise or relax. Then take a mental health day once a month, to catch up on other tasks or enjoy a long weekend. It may seem illogical, but the time off will pay dividends in the long run.

■ **Verify your job target.** Now that you have a schedule established, it's time to review the basics. Do you have a target for your job search? You need to know what job titles you are seeking, which companies you want to work at and the salary range you will accept. Without this information, you cannot network or cold-call effectively.

■ **Review your resume.** Is your resume up to date? Does it reflect your job target? Is it well written? Ask someone in your field to critique your resume; then implement the suggestions you agree with and move forward with confidence.

■ **Check your appearance.** If you haven't had an appearance update in a while, now may be the time. Take a critical look at your wardrobe and replace a few key pieces if needed: shoes, interview

outfit, accessories.

Don't forget about your hairstyle and eyeglasses. The change doesn't need to be extensive or expensive to make a big impact.

■ **Volunteer, take a part-time job or enroll in classes.** Don't let yourself get used to the couch and the computer. By committing 10 hours a week to someone else, you'll achieve more in your own schedule, while also gaining skills that will be more impressive to an employer than simply being unemployed.

■ **Get started. Don't wait.** With a schedule, a target and a resume, you are ready to job search. Even one call a day will make a difference. If that's the pace you've set for yourself, make that call in the morning. Otherwise, you will spend the entire day dreading a 15-minute activity.

And remember, a job search is basically a numbers game. The sooner you make the first call, the sooner you'll be done with 100 and negotiating a job offer.

Amy Lindgren, the owner of a career consulting firm in St. Paul, Minn., can be reached at alindgren@pioneerpress.com.

Home inventory: Make sure any new items are covered

NAPSI

The new year means lots of gifts and other new things are now in your home. After putting all those holiday gifts away, it's a good idea to record them on a home inventory.

An easy-to-use checklist available on the Web can provide a room-by-room record of possessions in a home, including the actual cash value of an item and the cost to replace it. Protecting household possessions is as important as protecting a home itself.

"For most homeowners, it's nearly impossible to tell how much you own or what it's all worth without taking a home inventory," says Jonathan Bennett, senior vice president at The Hartford Financial Services Group. "The beginning of the New Year is a good time to update your home inventory by recording gifts received over the holidays or possessions acquired over the past year."

In addition, you can get extra security with a visual record of possessions. Videotapes or photographs can help in providing the detailed information to process a claim quickly. Store them in a safe deposit box or with family and friends for safekeeping.

When you update your home inventory, it's also a good time to re-

view coverage limits.

"If you received something particularly valuable over the year, you may want to consider increasing coverage limits to protect it," says Bennett.

The Hartford suggests following tips when developing a home inventory.

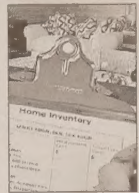
■ **Proceed with a room-by-room listing of all personal belongings and their estimated replacement costs.**

■ **Don't forget about storage and special collections and items that may be stored in a "miscellaneous" section for anything that do not fall into a category.**

■ **Update the inventory form periodically to reflect new purchases and changing values.**

■ **Review your policy.** Determine if you purchased replacement cost or actual cash value for your personal items. If you would receive the replacement cost value, you would receive the actual cash value, which reflects normal depreciation of replacement.

For an inventory checklist, visit www.thehartford.com/homeinventory.



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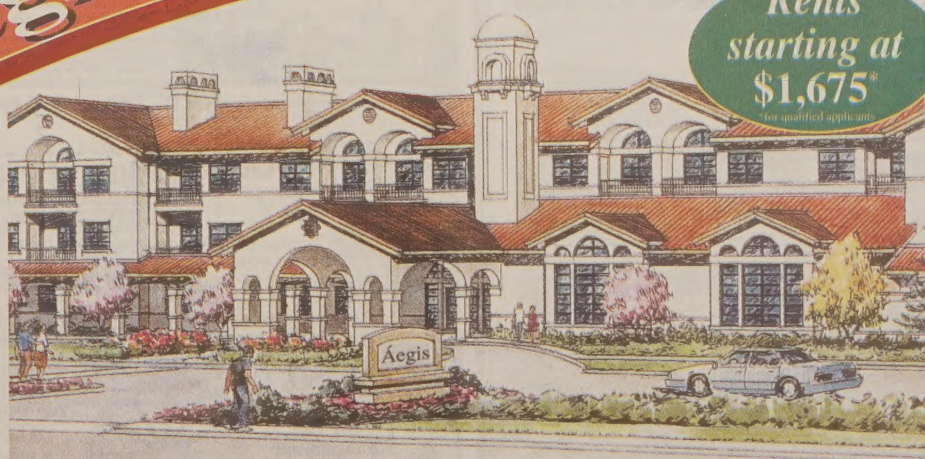
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